

Almighty God versus Man's Democratic Processes

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Some have assumed that Almighty God does not view man's democratic processes favorably. In other words, they believe God wants mankind to follow Him and obey His instructions without question, or suffer the consequences. Can this position be supported from scripture? Before answering this question, it is important to clarify that the spirit-being who interacted with mankind throughout the Old Testament, including giving God's law and commandments at Mt. Sinai, was the one who later became known as Jesus Christ,

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all **our fathers were under the cloud...** (1Cor. 10:1a; emphasis added).

And the Lord went before them by day **in a pillar of cloud** to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. ²²He did not take away **the pillar of cloud** by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people (Ex. 13:21-22; emphasis added).

All were baptized into Moses **in the cloud** and in the (Red) sea (1Cor. 10:2; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and (consequently) **the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them** (Ex. 14:19; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that **the pillar of cloud descended** and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and **the Lord talked with Moses** (Ex. 33:9; cf. Jn. 1:18; 6:46; 1Jn. 4:12a; emphasis added).

Then **the Lord descended in the cloud** and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord (God Almighty) (Ex. 34:5; cf. 25:22; Nu. 12:5; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

When we cried out to the Lord (God Almighty), He heard our voice and **sent the Angel and brought us out of Egypt...** (Nu. 20:16a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: '**I led you** up from Egypt and brought you **to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you** (Jgs. 2:1; cf. Gen. 28:15; Dt. 31:6, 8; Jos. 1:5; Heb. 13:5)emphasis added).

So the Angel of God and the Angel of the Lord are names applied to the spirit-being that appeared as a cloud to Moses and the Israelites. This same spirit-being is also referred to as a "spiritual rock,"

...For they (ancient Israelites) drank of **the spiritual Rock that followed them**, and **that Rock was Christ** (1Cor. 10:4b; Ed. notes in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Behold I (the Angel of the Lord) will stand before you (Moses) there on the rock in Horeb; and you

shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it... (Ex. 17:6; Ed. notes in parentheses).

When Christ appeared as a flesh and blood human being, he made the connection between the physical water he provided following Israel's exodus from Egypt, and the spiritual water, leading to everlasting life, that his sacrifice would provide for those who repent of sin,

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.³⁸ He who believes in me, as Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'³⁹ **But this he spoke concerning the Spirit**, which those believing in him would receive (following repentance and baptism)... (Jn. 7:37-39a; cf. Ac. 2:38; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Jesus answered and said to her (a Samaritan woman), 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and **he would have given you living water**' (Jn. 4:10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But **the water** that I shall give him **will become** in him **a fountain** of water **springing up into everlasting life** (Jn. 4:14; emphasis added).

Having established it was the spirit-being, who later became known as Jesus Christ, that was delegated to represent Almighty God during the Old Testament period, we can now begin looking at how Christ responded to the democratic process when confronted with it (Ex. 23:20-23). In the beginning, Christ was the "Lord" who gave instructions to Adam (Heb. 13:8; cf. Jn. 8:58; Ex. 3:14),

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die**' (Gen. 2:16-17; emphasis added).

The language used in the creation account is mostly figurative with Adam being originally created in the same image as God, which is a spirit composition (Gen. 1:26-27; cf. Ps.17:15b; 1Jn. 3:2b). The phrase "dust of the ground" describes the spiritual building block, or power, from which both the spirit and physical realms were created. Therefore if an angel sins, and eventually dies as a result, he will return to the original spiritual essence, or power, from which he was created (Ps. 146:3-4; Eccl. 12:7b). In the case of Adam and Eve they were transformed from spirit-beings into "sinful" flesh and blood human beings,

For the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23a).

...The soul (living being) who sins shall die (Eze. 18:4b).

The soul (living being) who sins shall die (Eze. 18:20a).

...but a person shall be put to death for his own sin (2Kgs. 14:6b).

For what the law (of animal sacrifices) could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own son (Christ) **in the likeness of sinful flesh**, on account (because) of sin; He condemned sin in the flesh (Rom. 8:3; cf. 2Cor. 5:21; Heb. 10:5b; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The “Lord” gave Adam, and the woman that came later, freedom to choose whether to follow the command given in Genesis 2:16-17, or to disobey it. Consequently, Adam and Eve had democratic freedoms and rights within the spirit realm prior to committing sin,

Democracy: 1. **Government by the people, exercised** either **directly** or through elected representatives. 2. A political or **social unit based upon this form of rule**. 3. A social condition of equality and respect for the individual within the community (Reader’s Digest Illustrated Encyclopedic Dictionary; p 454; emphasis added).

Although Adam and Eve had these democratic freedoms and rights, they functioned within a spiritual community that had rules of conduct established for the benefit of all its citizens. Therefore, if Adam and Eve elected to follow a leader that promised them no consequences for transgressing these rules, they were free to do so,

And the serpent (symbol of Satan; cf. Rev. 12:9) said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die’ (Gen. 3:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Jesus Christ was responsible for this spiritual community and yet he did not force Adam and Eve against their will. However, consequences still applied if they transgressed any rules of conduct. In a situation like this, Christ had to administer the punishment (Gen. 14-19). His job also included rehabilitation of all transgressors leading eventually to reconciliation within the spiritual community (Rom. 5:10; 2Cor. 5:18, 20; Col. 1:21). This is a process that some refer to as “God’s plan of salvation”.

So the Genesis account of creation included democratic freedoms and rights combined with consequences for transgressing the rules of conduct established for every citizen’s benefit. By choosing to reject or transgress these rules, the guilty party elected to follow the leadership of someone other than Jesus Christ,

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (Jn. 8:44).

Those who hear and obey the rules of God’s spiritual community have exercised their democratic right to elect the leader who upholds them (Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-40). That leader is Jesus Christ,

He who is of God hears God’s words ... (Jn. 8:47a).

...and they will hear my (Christ’s) voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd (Jn. 10:16b; Ed. note in parenthesis).

And when he (Christ) brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they do not know the voice of strangers (Jn. 10:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Another democratic election took place during the time of Samuel. Again the choice was between two leaders. This election was triggered by poor leadership in the religious community. The choice was between the next generation of Samuel’s sons or a secular

leader with no connection to Samuel or his family,

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, 'Look, you are old, and **your sons do not walk in your ways**. Now make for us a king to judge us like all the (Gentile) nations' (1Sam. 8:4-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Because Christ was working through Samuel, the people wanted to choose someone without any religious connections. In essence, this would remove Christ from any direct leadership role. Nonetheless, Christ allowed this democratic process to continue,

And the Lord said to Samuel, 'Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them' (1Sam. 8:7; emphasis added).

In order to stress that removing Christ's leadership would result in a leader who would be influenced by Satan's value system, the consequences were explained,

Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them (1Sam. 8:9).

Any human leader who does not follow Christ will, by default, follow Satan's self-serving values and this is what Christ explained to the people through Samuel,

And he (Samuel) said, 'This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots (military conscription). ¹²He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots (increased cost of military spending will be borne by the people). ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers (indicative of increased "entitlements" for appointed government officials). ¹⁴And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants (similar to property taxes being charged today; compulsory purchase of property; as well as forfeiture of property for unpaid taxes). ¹⁵And he will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants (taxes will increase exponentially to support this bureaucracy). ¹⁶And he will take your menservants and your maidservants and your finest young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work (similar to any form of value added tax, sales tax, goods and services tax, etc., collected from the people and submitted to government). ¹⁷He will take a tenth of your sheep (any taxes charged directly, or indirectly, related to food production). And you will be his *servants* (SHD 5650; slaves, bondmen, subjects) (1Sam. 8:11-17; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So although democracy appears to be the best form of government, it has many weaknesses related to its human leaders who are affected by the influence of their unseen leader, Satan. Many people today can relate to the burdens associated with government bureaucracy and taxes. Consequently, these same people should identify with the following scripture,

And **you will cry out** in that day **because of your king** (leader) **whom you have chosen** (elected) for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day (1Sam. 8:18; Ed. notes in parentheses).

When we complain about the leadership we have, God does not hear those complaints because He allowed us to elect whatever government we want. Since the time of Adam

and Eve, the majority of mankind does not want God telling them what to do because they feel His ways are a burden restricting their “human rights” (1Jn. 5:3). When examined closely these “human rights”, more often than not, are a license to disobey God’s law and commandments. Consequently, the majority will vote for a leadership that allows them to behave anyway they want without consequences. Again, this is why Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan’s way of living,

For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed (spiritually speaking) (Isa. 9:16; Ed. note in parentheses).

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity (hostile) against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be (Rom. 8:6-7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

...this is a rebellious people, lying children, **children who will not hear the law of the Lord.** ¹⁰ Who say to the seers, ‘Do not see (God’s truth),’ and to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us the right things; (instead) speak to us smooth things (even if they are untrue), prophesy deceits (to make us feel good).’ ¹¹ Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, **cause the Holy One of Israel** (Almighty God’s delegated leader, Jesus Christ) **to cease from before us** (Isa. 30:9a-11; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Astute religious and political leaders know they cannot be elected if they totally reject anything to do with God. It would reduce the popular vote needed for election to office. Therefore, they will invoke God’s name in various ways and situations:

“In God we trust.”

“God Bless America.”

“We will pray for “so and so” who is going through this difficult time, etc.”

However, many of these same people will be quick to praise “new legislation” that abandons some “archaic law” established by Almighty God millennia ago that seems “out of touch” in today’s society. Almighty God addressed this situation as well,

Therefore the Lord said: ‘Inasmuch as these people draw near to Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts (willingness to obey) far from Me, and their fear (deep respect) toward Me is taught by the commandment of men (man’s interpretation of what’s right and wrong) (Isa. 29:13; cf. Mt. 15:8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The scripture above also addresses the many errors associated with the oral traditions of various religious systems including Judaism.

The consequences of this rebellious and disrespectful attitude are manifold,

...For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden (Isa. 29:14b).

Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (because of disobedience) (2Tim. 3:7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of

themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵**having a form of godliness** (outward appearance of being religious) **but denying its power...** (2Tim. 3:1-5a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So the consequences can be overwhelming when the wrong leader is elected through the democratic processes allowed by God. What most fail to realize is that there are only two choices in every election scenario. The voters can either choose to follow the leadership of Jesus Christ, or by default choose the leadership of Satan through the many officials he is able to influence and corrupt. The prophet Elijah summed this up quite succinctly,

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, '**How long will you falter between two opinions?** If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal (false religious/political system), then follow him.' But the people answered him not a word (1Kgs. 18:21; Ed. note in parentheses; emphasis added).

Mankind and the fallen angelic host, who influence affairs on this planet (Rev. 12:9), have been granted thousands of years to experiment with all forms of governance, including democracy. Eventually, each and every one will prove to be a failure and Christ's form of government will prevail, becoming the people's choice. In fact, conditions will get so bad as God's law and commandments are systematically removed by the governments of this world, that the choice to follow Christ will be made willingly and enthusiastically by *many people,

Now it shall come to pass **in the latter days** that the mountain (symbol of government) of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains (supersede all previous forms of Satan's governance), and shall be exalted above the hills (supersede every one of man's forms of governing); and all nations shall flow to it. ³**Many people shall come and say,** 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall (willingly) walk in *His paths* (way of living as defined by God's law and commandments).' **For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.** ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares (no more increased taxes to support a burgeoning military), and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (no more grief related to loved ones killed in conflicts around the world) (Isa. 2:2-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As long as some people are willing to follow Christ's lead in their lives, while living in accordance with God's law and commandments to the best of their knowledge and ability, this planet will survive to see the fulfilment of Isaiah 2:2-4,

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but **for the elect's sake those days will be shortened** (Mt. 24:21-22; emphasis added).

The conditions described in the scripture above are the result of mankind choosing the leaders they have in both the religious and political spheres. Almighty God has allowed this freedom of choice, but included provisos for everyone's benefit. Nonetheless, the majority of mankind continues to choose the ways of Satan rather than willingly obeying the law and commandments of God. Until this situation changes, history will continue to

repeat itself and mankind will remain captive to Satan's many lies and deceptions that eventually lead to death (Heb. 2:14).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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