**Lesson: Rebellion and Lawlessness**

In the past decade we have seen a rapid escalation of anarchy, rebellion, and tyranny in the USA. This has been true especially since the Covid pandemic. Let us begin with anarchy, which is a deliberate attempt to overthrow government by promoting lawlessness. We saw it sponsored by the far left resulting in cities being burned and looted, with innocent people and police being beaten and murdered. Was anything done to bring these perpetrators to justice? No, quite the contrary; they usually were either set free or not prosecuted. We also saw anarchy coming from the far right when peaceful protesters were incited by rogue insurgents to storm the capitol building. Was justice served in this case? Not really, only one has been charged with sedition and a handful have been charged with assault or vandalism; others have been incarcerated under squalid and unhealthy conditions, without bail, for mere misdemeanors, in direct violation of *habeas corpus* and due process. Anarchists want chaos, not government; they are not fighting for a right-wing or left-wing cause, they are fighting because lawlessness is their drug or high, and government is their antagonist. No political position or ideology justifies such behavior.

Interestingly, rebellion, sedition and subversion are not exactly uncommon, and occur in the Holy Bible. For example, in the New Testament the man Barabbas, who was spared from crucifixion instead of Jesus Christ, was awaiting execution for sedition and for a murder committed during an insurrection (MAR 15:7; LUK 23:13–24). Yet a riotous mob pleaded with Pilate to crucify Jesus for sedition, and release Barabbas who was a bona fide seditionary, and Pilate complied. Were the temple leaders and the rioters they instigated interested in truth and justice? Hardly. The priests and elders saw Jesus as a threat to their power, so they produced false witnesses to testify and incited rioters in Jerusalem to scream “crucify him” (LUK 23:18–24). Similarly, high priests accused St. Paul of sedition and insurrection against the Jewish state (ACT 18:12–13; ACT 24:1–6). In the Old Testament, the rebuilding of Jerusalem was delayed due to accusations of insurrection and sedition levied against Jewish loyalists (EZR 4:15–21). Thus, Jesus, apostles, Jews and Christians were falsely accused and persecuted then, and are now.

It seems the ones accusing others of high crimes are often the ones who actually are guilty of them. And in the above instances, it was God’s people who were being targeted. The real rebels were the ones who were defying God and His laws! Here is yet another example of the “projection” of one’s attributes or behavior onto another, something we constantly witness in government.

* PSA 64:1–2 ~ Hear my prayer, oh Lord! Preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked, and from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity.
* PRO 28:7 ~ Those who keep the law are wise; the riotous son shames his father.
* ROM 13:13 ~ Let us walk honestly, as in the daylight; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and lasciviousness; not in strife or envying.
* 1 TI 1:8–10 ~ We know that the law is good, as long as it is used lawfully. Know this, that the law does not exist for the righteous, but for the lawless and disobedient; for the ungodly and profane, for murderers and slayers; for whoremongers, adulterers, and defilers; for liars and perjurers; and for anything that goes contrary to sound doctrine.
* TIT 1:10–11; 3:9–11 ~ There are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially among proponents of the circumcision (see also ACT 15:24). Their mouths must be shut, those who subvert entire houses, teaching things that are false for ill-gotten gain. Avoid foolish questions, genealogies, contentions and strivings that go against the law, for such things are unprofitable and vain. A proven heretic must be rejected; such a man is subverted, condemning himself with his sinful words and actions.

In this day and age, we see politicians and the mass media loosely throwing around words such as insurrection, sedition, and treason. For example, the invaders of the capitol building in January 2021 repeatedly were called armed insurrectionists though not a single weapons charge was levied. The majority of those charged were guilty of nothing more than trespassing. The ones guilty of subversion and insurrection were instigators planted amongst the protesters. This plan was orchestrated in advance by criminals who have yet to be identified much less arrested. Those who removed barriers and prompted the crowd to storm the capitol were truly seditious. Most people who were arrested for entering that restricted area would not have known it was restricted since the barriers were removed prior to the completion of the president’s speech and subsequent march to the capitol. This scheme was the working of deviant minds, as further evidenced by harassment of unsuspecting visitors to DC and the overlooking of serious criminal acts conducted that day, such as the murder of an unarmed veteran. In short, it was a setup. If it could be proven that government officials or their representatives were involved, this would pass as treasonous and seditionary.

Additionally, we hear constant chants to reduce, defund, and chastise the police; to decriminalize subversive behavior and lessen sentences for major crimes; to allow repeat offenders to go free without bail or jail time. The entirety of our justice system is being hijacked in the name of equity, impartiality, and antiracism. Even parents are being labeled domestic terrorists simply because they want a say about what their kids are being taught, as if they are too stupid to know what is best for their own children. These aforementioned atrocities fit the very definitions of subversion, authoritarianism, oppression, and totalitarianism. Such is a betrayal of the laws of the land outlined in our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence. This is a threat to the civil rights of the populace and the stability of our democratic republic. It comes as no surprise the dramatic escalation of violent crimes here and abroad, by demented, perhaps demon-possessed maniacs.

* ECC 5:8 ~ If you see the oppression of the poor, the perversion of judgment and justice in certain provinces, do not marvel about the matter. For one high official is supervised by a higher one, and there are others higher than they. [Corruption goes all the way to the top.]
* 2 PE 2:17–19 ~ They are wells without water, clouds blown by the wind, for whom is reserved the greatest darkness forever. When they speak grandiose words of vanity they appeal to lusts of the flesh, enticing people who would otherwise escape those living in error. Though they promise liberty they are themselves servants of corruption, because they become a slave when they are overcome by it. If they escape the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and again become entangled and overcome by it, the end is worse than the beginning; for it would have been better for them never to had known the way of righteousness, than to have turned from it after they received the holy commandment delivered to them.

The basis of our laws and moral values is the Holy Bible. To defy these values and our founding documents is rebellion, not just against the USA but against God. Consider Saul, who was anointed king of Israel by Samuel the prophet and later rejected by him for defying God. King Saul disobeyed the command of God and did not comply with the counsel of Samuel (1 SA 15:19–28). The moral of the story is this: leaders who dismiss the Word of God are themselves in rebellion, and likewise should be rejected. When you see your government slacken the laws and free the lawbreakers, while incarcerating the innocent and persecuting the faithful, whose side do you suppose they are on? If they are not against you, they are for you (MAR 9:38–40; LUK 9:49–50); and if they are not for you, they will work against you. But they are very tricky about it. Like Judas, they will betray you with a kiss; that is to say, they sugarcoat their treachery and lies.

* DEU 28:47–48 ~ Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things, you will serve your enemies which the Lord will send against you: in hunger, thirst, nakedness, and poverty. You will have a yoke around your neck until you have been destroyed.
* PSA 66:7 ~ God rules by His power forever; His eyes can see all nations. Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.
* ISA 1:23 ~ Your princes are rebellious; their companions are thieves. They love bribes and seek self-aggrandizement. They do not care about widows and orphans.
* ISA 30:1 ~ The Lord says, “Woe to the rebellious children who take counsel from others but not me, who are covered but not by my Spirit, that they may multiply their sins.”
* MAR 14:21 ~ Surely the Son of Man must depart, as written. But woe to the man by whom He is betrayed; it would be better for that man had he never been born.
* LUK 21:16 ~ You will be betrayed by parents, siblings, kinfolk, and friends, causing you to be put to death.
* JOH 15:16–25 ~ Jesus commanded His chosen to bear good fruit, which is demonstrated by loving one another. He warned His followers that people would hate and persecute them, because they hated and persecuted Jesus, and therefore they also hate God. Thank God that all believers are chosen to leave this hateful world.

Nihilism is the current craze: total rejection of religion and morality; rendering life meaningless in order to placate self-indulgences. These are the modern mutineers, traitors to their country, because their crimes are treasonous and rebellious. It matters not if they lean to the left or to the right when they have subverted decency, honor, and integrity to satisfy their lust, greed, and pride. Money and power enable their decadent lifestyles and protect them from prosecution. They feign fairness and equal representation, but quash all dissent.

The precept of equality can be achieved only when people hold themselves accountable and are likewise accountable to one another; this is how our system of government has worked for 240 years. Most importantly we are accountable to the one true God, whom the mutineers will deny until they stand before Him in judgment at the last day, after which they will pay dearly. Ultimately, there will be an accounting and the cost will be their souls; this is the second death (REV 20:14; REV 21:8). By force they aim to grab power and seize control for a time, though they are forfeiting their lives forever.

* ROM 3:19–28 ~ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore, nobody will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the Law; rather, through the Law we become conscious of sin. But now righteousness of God apart from the Law has been made known, to which the Law and the prophets testify. This righteousness is available to all believers through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, for all have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, and all can be justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ. God presented His Son as an atoning sacrifice, received through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice. He restrained Himself from executing punishment for the sins committed beforehand so that He could show His justice now, in order to be fair in justifying those who have faith in Jesus.
* 1 CO 7:22 ~ Those who were servants when called by Christ have become free, and those who were free when called by Christ have become servants. You were bought with a great price, so do not become a slave to humankind, but remain responsible to God and the purpose for which He called you.
* JDE 1:10–12 ~ These men speak abusively against things they do not understand; and whatever things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion. They are blemishes in your love feasts, eating your food without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown about by the wind; autumn trees without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. (NIV)

Nihilists, globalists, statists, fascists, Marxists, and anarchists refuse to accept liability. They choose themselves to be their god and engage in self-worship; they will never acquiesce to the people, the Constitution, or God Almighty. They are essentially lawless antichrists, for they are serving Satan completely unawares or perhaps deliberately, becoming allies of evil in rebellion against the Lord God. Their hate for Christians and Jews has prevailed from Old and New Testament times to this day, and will continue until all worldly empires have collapsed and lie prostrate before the King of kings.

* DAN 2:43–44 ~ The iron mixed with miry clay represents their comingling with the seed of men. But they will not cleave one to another, even as iron and clay do not mix. During the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up His kingdom which will never be destroyed. His kingdom will not be left to others, but it will break into pieces and consume all prior kingdoms, and will stand forever.
* 1 JO 4:1–3 ~ Do not believe every spirit, but test them to determine if they are really of God; for many false prophets are in the world. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh is of God. Those who do not confess that Jesus is of God are themselves not of God; they are spirits of the antichrist, who you heard is coming and is already here.
* REV 16:13–14 ~ I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs come out of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. These were the demons that performed miracles, and coerced the kingdoms of the world to unite against God.
* REV 17:12–14 ~ Ten kings will obtain power for one hour with the beast. They will give their power and strength to the beast and will make war with the Lamb of God, only to be defeated.
* REV 18:2 ~ The angel cried, “Babylon the great has fallen and has become the habitation of devils and every evil spirit.”

So, what is really going on here? It is the control game (otherwise known as tyranny), whereby they steal your liberties to control you. You no longer can make your own decisions because they will decide for you; and they will tell you what you must believe because faith in God is their greatest obstacle. Do what you are told or else, even though this standard does not apply to them. If they can change the rules, they can rig the game; which is why they would abandon the Constitution, reimagine our system of government, and forsake the ways and words of the Lord. But they have a weakness: morbid dread of losing power. This ungodly fear can be exploited. Anyone bearing the Holy Spirit has the power to defeat evil, for God is all powerful (JOH 16:33). This power is love which casts out fear that torments the mind (1 JO 4:18). For more on this topic read the June 2021 lesson: *The Grand Delusion*.

* JOH 16:33 ~ Jesus said to the apostles, “I have told you these things so that you might have peace, because in the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.”
* ROM 5:3; ROM 8:35–39 ~ We also rejoice in our tribulations, because we know that tribulation produces patience, and patience produces character, and character produces hope. And hope will not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit. What can separate us from the love of Christ: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword? As it is written, for your sake we face death on a daily basis; we are sent as sheep to the slaughter. But we have conquered these things through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

By Andrew Barber (Posted 02/01/2022)