

Sept. 2002 Bible Study Notes; Page 1 of 2

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tomorrow than we do today. Comments welcome.

CULTURE

*The culture of a people is the result of their Religion,
not their Government*

Since man is a soul composed of spirit and body, he lives in two dimensions - one spiritual and the other carnal.

There will be the spiritual religious side to man's life as well as the earthly, civic side.

We use the term church to mean the religious side but the Christian Church is not the only religion.

All mankind in all of history has a culture of religion and civic life.

All the cultures of mankind are the result of man's religion as it cultivates into man's lifestyle.

All men have faith of some kind and it will determine their culture which will determine the quality of life on earth.

Faith is believing, trusting, obeying and understanding. Therefore, faith will determine man's culture, lifestyle, values; and, how one relates to others in both a religious and civic way.

The history of both government and religion would begin with the family and the rule of father as a patriarch over both church and state.

This rule would then extend to tribe or nations, but when tribes make their own gods this would produce different religions and cultures in conflict with rulers seeking conquest and dominion.

The chief and witch doctor become the rulers over the soul of man. Idolatry then becomes the biggest problem of mankind because it produces different (competing) cultures which clash, causing the conflicts of war, slavery, inhumanity, abuse and spoil.

If man had only taken one faith and one idol there would have been no clash of religion and culture. All

mankind would have been of one religion (faith) and therefore one culture, one lifestyle, and one set of values.

God called Abraham and gave him one religion, one government and one faith which would result in a culture of equality, justice, and peace.

The religion of Abraham was not of his origin... but of his God. The different religions of Abraham's peers were from man's idolatry, superstition, and tradition.

The religion which God gave to Abraham when He called him out of multicultural polytheism was monotheistic and monocultural; but 4000 years later His religion becomes multicultural while remaining very monotheistic.

Judaism resulted from Abraham's faith as passed on to Jacob and the tribes which became one nation under one rule.

In national Judaism, church and state were combined in one rule just as with the patriarch in tribal rule. When Christianity was born out of corrupted Judaism, the God of Abraham kept the church separate from the state.

In Judaism, state and church were under one divine rule; they were not separated as in our laws in America.

If Israel went to war it was a Holy War.

If Israel had allies, it was an unholy alliance.

If the leaders failed, they failed God, for God (not the people) had given them the office.

They were God ordained and appointed and anointed.

All rulers through time have in some way, represented their own idol(s) and religion(s) until George Washington became a state ruler that was void of any religious authority.

When Jesus brought in His Kingdom it was spiritual only and He only gave rule over spiritual matters. When the American kingdom began as one nation from 13 states, it only gave rule over civic matters.

The Christian Church continued to rule only in religious and spiritual matters until Constantine the Great became a Christian.

The Christian Church began in Judaism which was the religion of the oppressed Israelites. Therefore we would expect to see what cultures and lifestyle will result from this Faith as it cultures over the years.

Since Christianity came out of Judaism it is basically and morally the same religion with the same culture. The changes that we expect to see are in religious observances which do not occur as long as Christianity is practiced by Israelites. But when these observances spread to non-Jews and leave out the Jewish traditions, Christianity then results in a different culture because it will cease to circumcise and keep the feast days.

Christians will no longer circumcise their children.
And as Christians:
¥ they will not follow a Messiah or participate in rebellion.
¥ they will not seek to overthrow their government
¥ they will not bear arms.

THE CHURCH BECOMES A STATE

The Church had never reigned in matters of State until the Emperor joined the Church and brought his Crown with him.

Thus began a Union of Church and State which lasted until the American Colonies rebelled and established a Constitutional Government with only State authority.

From Constantine to Jefferson the Church and State competed for rule and dominion and every King and Pope claimed a Divine Right to Reign.

THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION IS THE LAW OF OUR LAND

All rulers have a constitutional right (not a Divine Right) . Our American king and ruler is:
of the people...the framers,
by the people...the framers, and
for the people...the framers

Our King does not die like a mortal king. Therefore, when the framers died it continues to rule and still rules today.

This new and unique form of government did not change the culture because it did not change religion. The American religion was Christian and therefore the culture was Christian. Since the new government exercised no authority or change in religion, we would then expect the Christian culture to continue.

The culture was not Jewish with sacrifices and Temple economy neither was it Jewish as cultured from 70 a.d.

The culture was Christian as cultured from English tradition which had ruled the Colonists for 150 years. The culture was not Muslim, or Hindu, or Buddhist, etc.

_____ Culture is tribal and the American leaders were all from the English, French or Spanish Tribe but still Christian.

The culture did not worship animals (as in India).

The culture did not deprive people of Divine Rights (as with Muslim women & children).

The culture did not worship idols (as in First Century Athens).

The culture focused on this life and made no provision for the dead (such as virgins and warriors sacrificed for the after life).

The American Culture today is the result of the religion of the framers more than the government which they gave us.

The blessings that we Americans have and which we attribute to God are really the result of our Christian Heritage as much as our wonderful system of government.

America has been a melting pot for tribal and racial cultures in the past. But today, immigrants no longer melt into the American culture.

E pluribus unum, Out of the many the one is not taking place in today's multicultural society. Multiculturalism always produces problems for the society and the government.

We have seen the blessings of a Christian heritage in American life. But what blessings would we see from a Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist heritage? Wouldn't the blessings of any other heritage reflect the same kind of life that people were trying to leave as they came to America seeking Freedom?

We Americans need to appreciate and protect our Christian heritage because it is the cause of our lifestyle which produces the good life of freedom in America. Freedom alone will not produce blessings because freedom may be abused to produce evil.

Many Christian Americans look to God for their blessings in the same way that the nation of Israel looked to God under a theocratic monarchy. These same Christians perceive that America will be blessed as long

as she worships God and, likewise, will be cursed when she does not worship God. However, God is not the ruler of this American republic, and He does not choose those who do (or will) rule it.

The American people choose the rulers who swear allegiance to the constitution (not God) and these rulers are responsible to the people (not God).

A free people may do right and reap good, or they may choose to sow the seeds of sorrow and suffering.

The blessings of the American Republic are the results (cause and effect) of a free people sowing the seeds of blessings with just laws. If other cultures are allowed to change the culture of America from its Christian origin, then America will experience the same evil produced by the cultures of those other lands.

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