



INSIDE

C. S. LEWIS

No Mere Mortals.....2

THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

“We the People”3

HARTLEY BURR ALEXANDER

A Watching Citizen4

CREDO MEANS “I BELIEVE”

The Apostles’ Creed5

VERSE OF THE WEEK

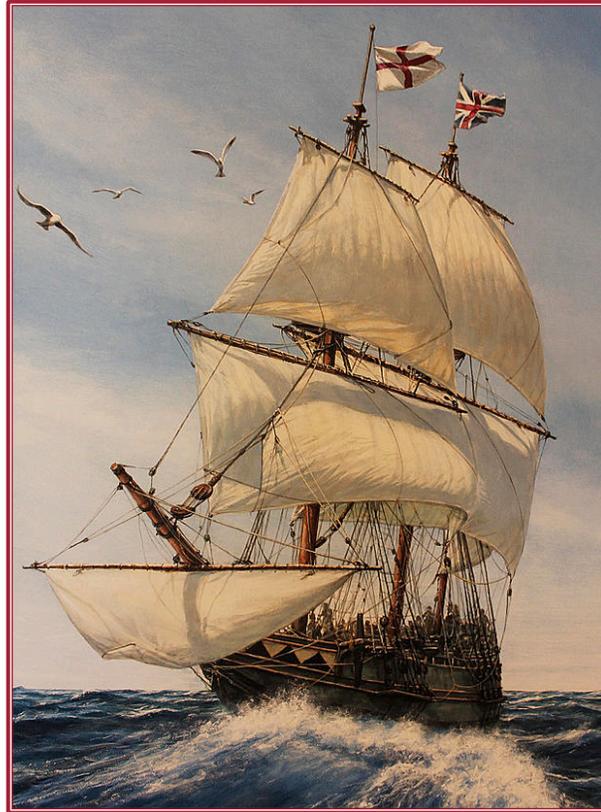
Psalms 78:70-726

ABOUT

Capitol Ministries®6

The 2018 Nebraska Senate Series: “Good God: Give Us Good Government!”

Is “We the People” Biblical?



Emigrants from England sailed across the cold, wild Atlantic for Virginia’s Hudson River mouth—so the 102 seafarers thought—in *Anno Domini* 1620.

After 66 days the *Mayflower* arrived at Massachusetts’ Cape Cod—300 erroneous miles north! Cold, disappointed, and with unsettled alarm, these Separatists, who had fled English rulers’ religious tyranny, compacted themselves into a political body and wrote their own governmental law for the sake of their very survival.

In the **name of God, Amen**...by the **Grace of God**...Having undertaken **for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith**...a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia...solemnly and mutually in the **Presence of God** and one of another, **covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick**, for our better Ordering and Preservation...to enact, constitute, and frame...Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices...as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general **good of the Colony**; unto which we promise all due **submission and obedience**.^a

The *Mayflower* Pilgrims had zeal and piety. Pres. John Adams would say their Compact became a root for the U.S. Constitution, written 150 years later. Should men write their *own* laws? Is *self*-government best? What does the *Bible* say?

Rev. Perry M. Gauthier, V.D.M.

^a <https://www.allabouthistory.org/mayflower-compact.htm>

Weekly Bible Study During the 105th Legislature’s Second Session

SENATORS: 6:45-8:00 am; Wednesdays, **Room #2010** (Sen. Albrecht). *Hot Breakfast Served.*

STAFF: Noon; Wednesdays, **Room #2010** (Sen. Albrecht). *Catered Lunch & B.Y.O.BrownBag.*



IMMORTALITY

Clive Staples Lewis



*“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.” **

* <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/42142-there-are-no-ordinary-people-you-have-never-talked-to>



Is “We the People” Biblical?

The Bible perfectly **describes** varying types of civil governments, spanning multiple millennia on three continents among diverse, ethnic people groups; it nowhere **prescribes** that only one form of civil government must be followed.

GOD IS THE KING OF KINGS OVER ALL PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE.

However, the Bible’s theology about the nature of human beings and how governments should work **strongly suggests** that a democratic republic, in some form, is probably the most biblically desirable form. America is most correctly described as a republic and specifically as a democratic, constitutional republic. Democracy literally means “power of the people” (Greek *demos*—δemos “people” + *kratia*—κρατία “power”). Democracy, only in the narrowest sense of the word, is the rule of the majority. Pure democracy is highly problematic and short-lived since:

PURE DEMOCRACY IS TWO WOLVES AND A LAMB VOTING ON WHAT TO HAVE FOR DINNER.

➔ Pure democracy can devolve into “mob rule” and disintegrates due to the lack of principles^b and the fallen nature of man (Jeremiah 17:19).

Republic means “the public thing” (Latin *res* “a thing” + *publicus* “of the people”). In a monarchy, issues of governance are *the thing of the king*. However, the 41 Puritan male heads-of-household who signed the Mayflower Compact wanted a say about “what’s for dinner.” They believed in appropriate self-rule.

America’s republic makes voting for representation a “public thing”—“democratic.” Leaders here are not above the law since “the law is king” (*Lex Rex*). In America, we possess a democratic, constitutional republic. What does the Bible say about humans and principled rulership?

I. BIBLICALLY, ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL

America does not promise *equal outcomes* as socialism unjustly tries to force. *Equal opportunity* is what legal immigrants have and why emigrants come. Further, American justice promises *equality before the law* as rooted in Moses’ civil law.

Deuteronomy 1:16-17

Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between a man and his fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him.

¹⁷You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike.

The real, righteous reason for judging equally under the law has roots deep in Eden’s Garden. We all descended from the same great, great, grandparents: Adam and Eve, whom God made in His image.

Genesis 1:26-27

God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule...on the earth.” ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

➔ All of man’s “kind” are made in God’s image and should be treated equally well since we all have the same inborn equal status. Academic C. S. Lewis wrote of our high value:

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal....it is immortals whom we joke with, marry, snub and exploit. —*The Weight of Glory*

Infinite God made us *Imago Dei* as immortal beings. Nobly, we are the crown of His creation. We are “like Him” and are to represent Him on earth. Genesis 9:6’s reason for the death penalty for murderers is “because in the image of God He made man.”

SHOULD THERE BE ELITE RULERS IF ALL MEN ARE EQUAL?



The riddance of the hereditary right of a “royal family” to rule everyone else is the backdrop that led to this second paragraph of the 1776 U.S. Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights....

All men are equal. A Government best reflecting that is most Biblical.

II. BIBLICALLY, ALL MEN ARE SINFUL

Sinners need to be held in check, held accountable, and distrusted with too much power. We saw the Founders’ Biblically-based, trust-don’t-trust mentality in Week 10—“Government’s Trinity: Separation of Powers” (a free PDF is [here](#)). Some soundbites from Week 10 are:

TRUST BUT VERIFY.

APART FROM GRACE, CIVIL GOVERNMENTS ARE BANDITS AND ROBBERS.

BIND LEADERS DOWN FROM MISCHIEF BY THE CHAINS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

All men are sinners. Therefore, monarchies and oligarchies (with a heavy concentration of power with few people) are, as a general rule, worse than democratic republics.

III. BIBLICALLY, ALL MEN ARE CREATED FREE AND WANT A SAY IN WHAT THEY CONSIDER GOOD

Romans 13:4 says civil authority is “God’s servant for *your* good” (NIV). Rulership’s power is not for the good of the king or an elite class but for the public. Who, then, best decides what is good for men in society? The moral men within a republic are well able to express what they feel is best. They themselves grasp their needs and desires better than an outside party. Good government really is to be a *res publicus*— a thing of the public.

➤ The Bible says men are equal, sinful, and free moral agents. So, what does Scripture teach about principles for rulership? **First:**

IV. BIBLICALLY, RULERS ARE MORE FAVORABLE WHEN HAVING CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

Israel had 42 kings in its years of monarchical government, but only three (Saul, David, and Solomon) reigned over a United Kingdom.

Israel’s first king, Saul, was very humble (“*small in his own eyes*”) when Samuel the prophet anointed him in 1047 BC to wear the first Israelite crown. This tall, dark, and handsome man enjoyed his highest ever approval ratings when all cheered his coronation.

1 Samuel 10:24
Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people.” So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”

➤ Israel’s second king, enthroned in 1000 BC, showed that even a monarch can have high favorability ratings with the people. Years later, as David was deeply grieving the murder of an Israelite general (a former enemy of David’s), we read:

2 Samuel 3:36-37
All the people took note of it, and it pleased them, just as everything the king did pleased all the people. ³⁷So all...Israel understood that day that it had not been the will of the king to put Abner...to death.

Unlike proud Rehoboam, calloused and kingdom-splitting, the humble David was loved by all the people. He seemed especially in touch with the realities of human suffering. He ruled in empathy, not tyranny.

DAVID KNEW WELL THE FEELINGS OF THE UNDERDOG.

The Great American Experiment



“The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.”

— George Washington’s Inaugural Address, April 30, 1798

- Alexis de Tocqueville originated the phrase “the great American experiment” in his book “Democracy in America.” By “great” he simply meant “on a grand scale.” While democracies predated Tocqueville by 2200 years back to the Greek city-state of Athens, at the time of Tocqueville’s writing, there were no functioning democracies in the world. To the Europeans a non-monarchical government was a strange concept.
- Alexander Hamilton spoke of the United States as a “grand experiment in democracy.”





Hartley Burr Alexander, Professor of Philosophy, collaborated with Architect Bertram G. Goodhue to adorn our Capitol with engraved philosophical concepts.



“The inscription over the main entrance of the Capitol was inspired by [Alexander’s] father, who had taught him, ‘The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness of the Citizen.’ Watchfulness, and our responsibility as citizens to work for a more noble life, guided Alexander’s thought.”



From his birth until his anointing as king, David knew the abuse of being the red-headed runt of the litter among many taller, older brothers. David was chosen not for his height nor outward appearance but for his heart which pleased the LORD.

God also trained David’s heart to care for His people like a shepherd genuinely cares for his sheep by raising him up as a shepherd boy. In green pastures, David learned skill, attention to detail, and integrity.

Psalm 78:70-72
He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. ⁷²So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them with his skillful hands.

HAS GOD USED YOUR PAST PAIN AND PROFESSION TO MAKE YOU A MORE CARING LEADER?

➔ Israel’s third king, Solomon, was coronated in 970 BC and was also named Jedidiah ^c (יְדִידְיָהּ = “loved by Yah”). The people also loved this young ruler whose humiliation over his ignorance on how to be a good ruler caused God to grant him the wisdom which is still of worldwide renown. When Zadok the priest anointed Solomon as king, the people’s joyful consent of this man to rule over them shook the earth.

1 Kings 1:39-40
They blew the trumpet, and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!” ⁴⁰All the people went up after him...people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so the earth shook at their noise.

The Bible and common sense tell us if civil authorities treat the people well, they will respond well, and things will go well, civilly, in society.

V. BIBLICALLY, HARSH, OPPRESSIVE RULERS ARE VIEWED NEGATIVELY

God gives imperfect government the intense Biblical duty of using lethal force in just death penalties and just warfare, but cruel, abusive rulers are Scripturally undesirable. It is wise to keep such potent rulers checked, separated, and balanced.

SURELY YOU’VE READ THAT IT’S BEEN SAID, “GOVERNMENT’S NOT A COW TO BE MILKED BUT A WATCHDOG TO BE FED.”

With so much power and potential abuse, we could change that saying:

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ONLY A WATCHDOG TO BE FED BUT A FED DOG TO BE WATCHED!

As is carved into the limestone over the north entry to our Capitol:

THE SALVATION OF THE STATE IS WATCHFULNESS IN THE CITIZEN

➔ This is because civil leaders are tempted to become “undemocratic” towards the public whom they lead.

Matthew 20:25
But Jesus called [the Twelve] and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.”

Israel had 42 kings in its centuries of monarchical government yet only three (Saul, David, then Solomon) ruled over an undivided kingdom.

Israel’s fourth king, Rehoboam, split the United Kingdom. How? By ignoring (and mocking) the pleas of his subjects concerning the over-taxation imposed upon them in the reign of his father, King Solomon.

1 Kings 12:15-16
So [King Rehoboam] did not listen to the people....¹⁶When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, “What portion do we have in David?...” So Israel departed...



This event split the nation for its centuries-long run as the Divided Kingdom. The Israelite subjects felt this was *no party* and yes, they had been *taxed enough already*. They protested the stubborn, arrogant monarch's decision and separated to form their own government.

This was like what the 41-emigrant, compacting Separatists did on a cold *Mayflower* on November 11th (398 years ago). Ignoring the consent of the public, thinking government was *a king thing*, King Rehoboam lost their allegiance, and most of his subjects separated.

Both Testaments are replete with famous examples of brutes, tyrants, and monsters of history, who were deaf and loveless to their subjects.

➔ Again we see wisdom in Grudem's *Politics According to The Bible*:

[Examples of oppressive rulers are] Pharaoh as king of Egypt (Ex. 3:9-10)...the Philistines who ruled harshly over Israel during the time of the Judges (Judges 14:4) or Nebuchadnezzar and other foreign kings who conquered and eventually carried the people off into exile (2 Kings 25:1-21). These events are all viewed negatively in the biblical narrative....Under the Roman government, Herod the Great and his successors were also oppressive rulers, ruling without the consent of the Jewish people, ruling harshly over them. (p 107)

After Easter, we recall the Apostles' Creed, that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried..." This was the same Pilate who murdered other Galileans whose blood he "*mingled with their sacrifices*" (Luke 1:31).

VI. BIBLICALLY, A FUTURE PERFECT GOVERNMENT IS BENEVOLENT MONARCHY

^b Theoretically that is why the Founders gave **Senators** the protection of six-year terms and made them fewer in number. They resided in the "upper" house and were to be about a state's principles—unsullied from the masses, the *hoi polloi*. **Representatives**, from their "lower" house positions, were to be in constant touch with the people, dismissible every two years, and supposed to deal more with popular concerns and less with ideals and theory.

There is a worldwide government of God coming, to be led in love by a perfect Leader with His perfect law.

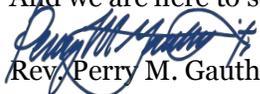
Revelation 19:11-16
Behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹²**His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.** ¹³**He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God....** ¹⁵**From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron....** ¹⁶**And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."**

➔ Jesus Christ is John 3:16's loving Lamb who WAS slain. He suffered under Governor Pontius Pilate but IS coming again to judge the quick and the dead. As the KING of kings and King of all nations, He will rule in perfect love for all His people using perfect law; to His kingdom—His benevolent monarchy—there WILL BE no end. However, until Jesus Himself comes to rule:

A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC LED BY SERVANT RULERS UNDER TRULY MORAL LAW SEEMS TO BE THE MOST BIBLICALLY DESIRED FORM OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

SMALL-R REPUBLICANS

Dear Member of the Unicameral:
 God put you in office to honor Him and to *democratically* serve people.
 And we are here to serve you,


 Rev. Perry M. Gauthier, V.D.M.

^c Many Biblical names include *some short form of Yahweh* (which we translate as Jehovah or "the LORD.") Eli-jah, Jerem-iah, Isa-iah. My favorite is **Yah-shua** (**Jo**-shua meaning "**Yah**weh saves." Joshua/**Yah**-shua is the Hebrew version of **Je**-sus (**Je**hovah/**Yah**weh saves). **Matthew 1:21**— "Give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

The Apostles' Creed



I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*Amen. **

* https://www.slideshare.net/dlrs_vasquez/nicene-creed-and-apostles-creed





VERSE OF THE WEEK



Psalm 78:70-72

“He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; 71From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. 72So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them with his skillful hands.”



Making disciples of Jesus Christ in the political arena throughout the world

Capitol Ministries® provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, we have started ongoing ministries in over 40 U.S. State Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols.

/CapitolMinistriesNe

@PerryGauthier



Capitol Ministries® Nebraska State Offices

4547 Calvert Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
402-327-0011 work
402-770-6270 cell/text
Perry@NECapMin.org
Faith@NECapMin.org
www.NECapMin.org

National Office
www.capmin.org

Senator’s Personal Study Notes

Lined area for Senator's Personal Study Notes

My Personal Application

Lined area for My Personal Application