



*Martin Luther King Jr. wrote to fellow ministers from a Birmingham jail on April 16, 1963, that "There are two types of laws: There are just laws and there are unjust laws....One has not only a legal but moral responsibility to obey just laws....One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with Saint Augustine that 'An unjust law is no law at all.' Now what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of Saint Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law."*

## INTRODUCTION

*If Doctor King, Augustine, and Aquinas are right, it is critical that Nebraska lawmakers know and diligently learn the eternal laws given by the Bible's morality-defining God. Former President Obama has well said that "our law is by definition a codification of our morality, much of it grounded in the Judeo-Christian tradition."*

## REBUILDING AMERICA: THE BIBLICAL BLUEPRINT

In **Points 1-8**, in the first half of our mini-series, we saw the Bible laying out a first-things-first strategy within the Great Commission, purposing to reach kings and rulers residing in capitals—the nerve centers of culture. Paul and Luke prioritized the strategy in the Gospels and Acts, as did the nation of Israel in the Old Testament.

## 9. SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The significance of God's Old Covenant saints laboring to evangelize Gentile politicians is further reflected in King Solomon's prayer of dedication to inaugurate the Temple after the completion of its construction. During his prayer, while thanking God, Solomon reminded Israel that the Lord had blessed their nation for an outward and evangelistically global purpose:

**1 Kings 8:60** "So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else."

➤ Solomon was the architect who had built the Temple by God's blueprints to include a very large courtyard into which the Gentiles could come to worship God. This was in keeping with Israel's purpose of proclaiming God's glory to all the world's nations. The hope was that the gleaming golden Temple would be a radiant light attracting nations from afar, led by their kings, to worship Israel's God. To His nation, God said:

**Isaiah 60:11** "And your gates will be open continually; they will not be closed day or night, so that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession."

➤ God's desire here is plain to see: Israel was to be about heralding Yahweh's glory to the other nations (*in general*) and reaching their political leaders (*in specific*). This was the holy architectural purpose for including the Temple courtyard in the overall design. This also explains why the Ultimate Architect of the plaza, King Jesus, would, in the future, cleanse it from its detestable misuse on two separate occasions. See His righteous anger in John 2:14-16 and Mark 11:15.

All in the Capitol Community Are Welcome to be a Part of Regular Bible Study and Fellowship

SENATORS' WEDNESDAY STUDY: 7:00-8:05 AM, ROOM 1422

CAPITOL MINISTRIES, NEBRASKA [WWW.CAPMIN.ORG](http://WWW.CAPMIN.ORG)

STAFF WEDNESDAY STUDY: 12:00-1:00 PM, ROOM 1306

PHONE: 402-327-0011 REV. PERRY M. GAUTHIER, V.D.M.

ALL STUDIES AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NECAPMIN.ORG](http://WWW.NECAPMIN.ORG)

E-MAIL: [PERRY@NECAPMIN.ORG](mailto:PERRY@NECAPMIN.ORG) [FAITHRN01@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FAITHRN01@GMAIL.COM)





First-things-first in an Old Testament missions sense meant that Israel was to emphasize reaching political leaders for Christ consistent with the New Testament's Great Commission.

➤ Unfortunately, often disobedient, Israel largely failed in this ministry to win the foreign nations and their leaders. Like we often are, they were far less than a shining example to lost Gentile kings.

---

**WHEN ISRAEL'S BEHAVIOR  
WAS NO BETTER THAN  
THEIRS, THE PAGAN NATIONS  
WERE DULY UNIMPRESSED.**

---

When Israel did follow God's commandments, pagan nations and their rulers took notice. The Old Testament records several instances where kings came to "the brightness of [Israel's] rising" (*Isaiah 60:3*). Points 10-12, following, will show Israel spreading the news of God's glory.

**10. THE QUEEN OF SHEBA**

First Kings 10:1-10 records that the Queen of Sheba visited Jerusalem during the reign of King Solomon. The queen had traveled a distance of 1,400 miles in a quest to satisfy her curiosity regarding all she had heard about ancient Jerusalem. At her zenith, Jerusalem was mesmerizing in her bright splendor. The nation *must* have been extremely alluring since a woman of such class and stature was willing to embark on a 2,800-mile round trip journey atop a camel. She journeyed from Sheba (modern-day Yemen) through an endless, hot morass of desert terrain. Scripture indicates that it must have been worth it and she did not leave disappointed.

➤ *1 Kings 10:1-10* "Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions. So she came to

*Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her."*

➤ "Then she said to the king, 'It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. Nevertheless, I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom. Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.'"

Israel's glory affected the Gentile queen exactly the way in which God had intended! She was overwhelmed and proceeded to praise Jehovah.

---

**THE HALF HAD NOT BEEN  
TOLD HER ROYAL HIGHNESS.**

---

Luke 11:31 provides a wonderful conclusion to the story. During, or perhaps resulting from her visit, she was converted.



Israel's corporate testimony had proven quite compelling—the nation was in touch with God's script as to how best to evangelize foreign nations and their leaders!

## 11. THE BABYLONIAN RULERS

Another instance of Israel's overwhelming national charisma comes years after Solomon, during King Hezekiah's reign. During Hezekiah's rule, even political leaders from Babylon were enamored enough to pay a visit to Jerusalem.

**2 Chronicles 32:31** *“Even in the matter of the envoys of the rulers of Babylon, who sent to Hezekiah to inquire of the wonder that had happened in the land....”*

➤ Hezekiah, too, followed God's script, and God's blessings within Israel evoked the interest of the Babylonian rulers to pay a special visit; whether they were converted remains unknown.

Unfortunately, those are the only two corporate illustrations of Israel fulfilling her calling to reach Gentile political leaders in terms of their traveling to Israel. What follows, however, is a most powerful encounter between one of God's Jewish prophets and a Gentile king.

## 12. THE PROPHET TO A CAPITAL: JONAH

The final Old Testament illustration of Israel embracing the first-things-first principle is the ministry of the Jewish prophet Jonah. A reluctant minister, Jonah eventually reported for preaching duty (after one whale of a detour). He finally obeyed God's call to proclaim His power and rights of judgment specifically to a Gentile nation—Assyria, more specifically to the capital city—Nineveh, and most specifically to its highest governmental leader—the king himself!

Of all the debauched countries in ancient history, Nineveh was a sewer of sin. The Ninevites, after conquering a nation, would skin the conquered king alive in public. The Book of Isaiah is full of the history of Assyria's constantly violent

intimidation of Israel. Jonah had good reasons to fear his prophetic assignment. He had a real race hatred of the Assyrians. He was a “*super patriot*” and would have rather seen his political enemies die, than see them repent as Jehovah God held out an olive branch of a chance for repentance.

➤ The idea of preaching to that arrogant, violent, despicable country must have seemed foolhardy. “*They will never repent!*” To his amazement, the book bearing his name records that the nation did listen to his preaching, and Jonah even had an audience with the king himself. What followed provides an insight for those interested in the rebuilding of a nation: *Just as nations fall from within, they are turned around from within! Not only did the king listen, he called the whole nation to repent!*

➤ **Jonah 3:3-9** *“So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk. Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, ‘Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.’ Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.”*

*“When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, ‘In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.’”*



➤ What a fascinating piece of history and compelling illustration of first-things-first! Like Jonah of old, when the Church today emphasizes the priority of reaching political leaders within the Great Commission, it is possible, too, that a whole nation can be turned to God both efficiently and effectively!

Summarizing: Old Testament Israel showed God's first-things-first priority in several ways:

1. The design and inaugural prayer over the Temple Courtyard
2. The Queen of Sheba's visit
3. The visit of the Babylonian Rulers, and
4. Jewish Jonah's Journey as a missionary to a powerhouse Gentile capital and its king.

Israel understood (and at times embraced) the profound calling of God to proclaim His Word and ways to the world's government leaders. May that be the case in the Church today!<sup>b</sup> Do you see the following more clearly than 3 weeks ago?

---

## THE BIBLE SAYS THE KINGS OF THE EARTH MUST BE REACHED FOR THE LORD.

---

### 13. JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES

To this point, we have gained from the life of Paul and the history of Old Testament Israel an excellent working understanding of God's laser-like focus on reaching governing authorities with His plan for their lives. In the Gospels, when Jesus first commissioned His twelve disciples, He told them something very interesting in light of the thesis of this study. Jesus told His disciples:

**Matthew 10:18** *"You shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles."*

Jesus first commissioned His original disciples, years before He saved Saul in Acts 9:15.

➤ Jesus wanted His earliest trainees in front of political leaders. The New Testament importance of reaching political leaders for Christ does not start in Acts 9 with Saul on the road to Damascus; it begins with Jesus' disciples in Matthew 10. Some might argue that being brought before governors and kings can only reference the persecution many of them would suffer. However, many of them did reach out to those in authority, giving witness to political leaders about the Gospel of their Christ and even their need to do what MLK Jr. would call (2,000 years later) obeying moral law while disobeying immoral law.<sup>c</sup> Matthew 10 is the first chronological record of *Coach Jesus'* commissioning and sending His disciples. He taught them first things first: preach to every person and most certainly to political leaders.

---

## GOD HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART FOR POLITICAL LEADERS.

---

### FOR MEDITATION: LIGHT OR FLIGHT?

Dear Senator:

I humbly ask you: Do you shine like Solomon's light in attractive wisdom and skill before the lost, or are you tempted to run in a Jonah-like flight—angry at political enemies and unwilling to tell of His excellencies in the Capitol?

Believing the best about you in this regard,

Rev. Perry M. Gauthier, V.D.M. (cell/text: 402-770-6270)

<sup>a</sup> <http://www.nlrac.org/american/american-civil-rights-movements/primary-source-documents/letter-form-a-birmingham-jail>

<sup>b</sup> Ralph Drollinger's book *Rebuilding America* is the basis for this study and available here: <https://capmin.org/download-rebuilding-nation/>

<sup>c</sup> Acts 4:19—"But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.'"

Printing compliments of [www.stardigitalprint.com](http://www.stardigitalprint.com) and Mr. Larry Moon.