

A NATION IS BORN

(The History of Israel as He Relates to Us Today)

ser5058 God & Country, Pt 1

July 3, 2022 E & L

I. LIGHT MOMENT (**Did not use last week.**)

A. A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

He took four worms and placed each one in a separate jar. The *first* worm was put into a jar of vodka. The *second* worm was put into a jar of cigarette smoke. The *third* worm was put into a jar of chocolate syrup. The *fourth* worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

The minister then proceeded to deliver the rest of the sermon. At the conclusion of his message the minister returned to the four jars and reported the following results:

The *first* worm in the jar of *vodka*– dead!

The *second* worm in the jar of *cigarette smoke* – dead!

The *third* worm in the jar of *chocolate syrup* – dead!

The *fourth* worm in the jar of *good clean soil* – alive!



The *fifth* worm in the jar of cocaine – a dragon. ([show photo, p1](#)) (Where'd he come from? LOL!)

The Minister then asked the congregation, “What did you learn from this demonstration?” Maxine, a ten-year-old who was sitting next to her mother, aggressively waved her hand, and without waiting to be recognized shouted out, “As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!”

That pretty much ended the service. Smile!

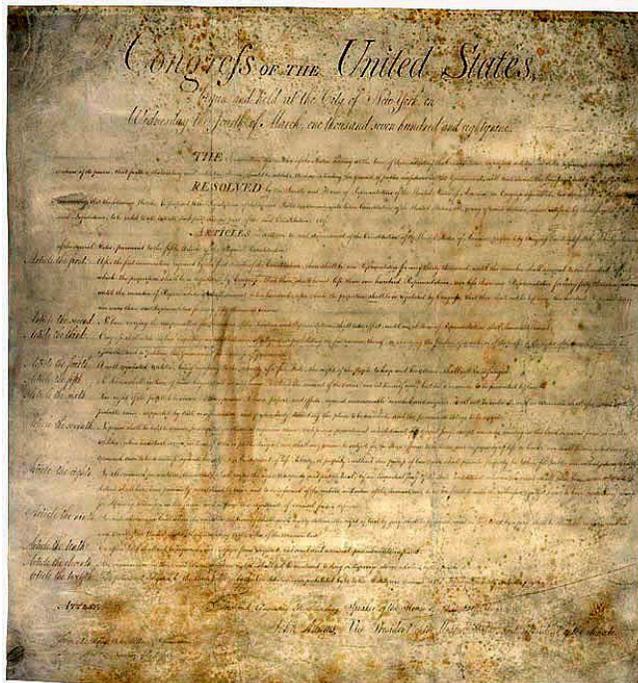
B. Let us pray.

II. (HOOK) GOD & COUNTRY

A. Point of Intrigue

Today, fitting with the month of July, we begin a new sermon series, *God and Country*, looking at “The History of Israel” and how it relates to the USA and to us as Christians living in the 21st Century.

I believe we are all familiar with, or maybe I should say we have heard quoted, the first clause in the Bill of Rights which states that “Congress



shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” ([show photo](#))

THE BILL OF RIGHTS: The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution and was added to the Constitution in order to appease Anti-Federalists who thought the new Constitution did not provide adequate safeguards for the rights of the people.

For approximately the first 150 years of the country’s existence, there was little debate over the meaning of this clause in the Constitution. However, as the citizenry became more diverse, challenges arose to existing laws and practices. Eventually, the Supreme Court was called upon to determine the meaning of the establishment clause.

Though not explicitly stated in the First Amendment, the clause is often interpreted to mean that the Constitution requires the separation of church and state.

B. To not bore you with a long history lesson, in short, the purpose of the First Amendment was to guarantee the fundamental rights of speech, the press, the right to assemble, petition the government, and religious freedom.

Religious freedom is defined as prohibiting the Government from restricting religious beliefs and practices (although exceptions have been made in situations in which ceremonial practices threaten an individual’s safety or welfare).

C. Today, many want to advocate that the First Amendment means that religion should be removed from any and everything that is Federal, or State affiliated.

That was not, nor is it now, the intention of the First Amendment.

The *Separation of church and state* metaphor is rooted in early American fears of government involvement in the practice of religion, fearing that it would corrupt the church. Specifically, the fear was that it would establish one church to which all peoples had to bow and belong. (e.g.: The Church of Rome, the Anglican Church.) It wasn't the fear that religion would corrupt the Government. (LOL!)

D. In the past week the SCOTUS has rendered two precedential decisions in favor of religious freedoms:

1. The overturning of *Roe vs Wade* (June 24, 2022).
2. Monday, June 27, 2022, in *Kennedy vs Bremerton School District*, the court ruled 6-3 that football coach Joe Kennedy was terminated unfairly for expressing his personal religious beliefs when kneeling and saying a prayer after a ball game.

NOTE! These were two huge victories for those who desire to express their religious beliefs free from the entanglement of the state, federal, or local governments. What was truly

disappointing was the SILENCE of Christian Radio. This was my post Monday morning after listening to Greg Loche of Global Vision Bible Church, Mt Juliet, Tennessee.

Silence! As a Christian, doesn't it trouble you that after 50 years of butchering babies in the womb, Christian radio stations are silent about the overturning of Roe vs Wade? This is not about being a Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or whatever other political party you're affiliated with. This is a moral victory for righteousness. Christians, we should be shouting praises to the Almighty till we have no voice left with which to shout. And Christian Radio should be heralding this victory--not silent. ([show photo](#))



Mordecai told Esther, “You were born for such a time as this.” Christian radio has a platform, mega churches have a platform. Now is the time to speak up and out and not be silent. The world speaks up and out and they influence the masses. It’s time the church speaks up and out and influences the masses. Who influenced the world more than Jesus? No one. Ponder this! Jesus was present and vocal EVERYWHERE He went. Church, we cannot be silent. We don’t have to be contentious, but let’s not be silent.

E. You say, “*What does that have to do with God and Country?*” Everything. Let’s look at it!

III. (BOOK & LOOK) A NATION IS BORN

Genesis 12:1-9 (NIV)

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go [KJV – get thee out of] from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.^[a]

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”^[b]

NOTE THE CALLING AND THE PROMISE:

A. God births a nation from one man, Abraham, and his family.

Now connect the dots. Doesn’t Peter tell us that we, the believer, are a

“Chosen people, a royal priesthood a holy nation, God’s special possession, that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light?” (1 Peter 2:9)

Doesn’t God give birth to an entire nation through Jesus. Jesus is the husband, and we are the bride. And

through our offspring the world is blessed; for we are the light of the world.

B. Think about it!

Who is in third world countries sharing the GOSPEL, caring for the poor, ministering to the sick, loving the unlovable? The Church (the bride of Christ).

C. Think about it more!

Who's there when the tsunamis and the tornadoes rip apart a town or city? The Church (the bride of Christ).

1. Samaritan's Purse
2. World Vision
3. Catholic Charities
4. Red Cross
5. Salvation Army

ILLUSTRATION: I recall when the church took a group of adults and teens to Biloxi, Mississippi. We helped rebuild houses alongside of the Salvation Army while the state built a casino!

D. We are called out of darkness into light.

The Church should gravitate to light; the world gravitates to darkness. Scripture says, in both the Old and New Testaments,

“Come out from among them and be separate; touch not the unclean thing.” (*Isaiah 52:11, 2 Corinthians 6:17*)

WHAT IS GOD SAYING? Is He saying we should all flee to the

mountains and form a religious community living in isolation from the world? Is He saying live like the Amish? Now, I'm sure the Amish are wonderful people, but they aren't converting the world. I don't say that in a derogatory way, I'm simply making a point. We have to be in the world, like Jesus, to change it, but (and that's a big "but" – one "t") we can't be like it.

E. We are called out of darkness into light.

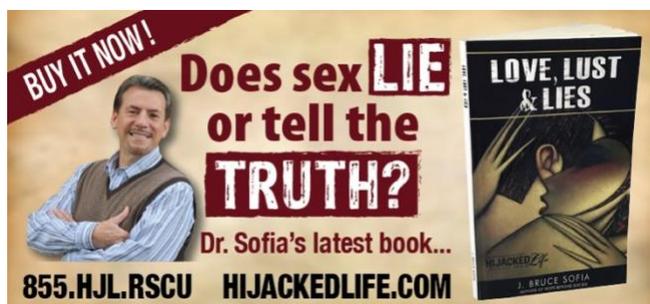
1. It means our *speech* is different from the world's.

ILLUSTRATION: We have a neighbor who uses the "f" word for ums, ahs and commas. I don't respond in kind. A few minutes into the conversation I notice that the "f" word starts to disappear. We are called to be light.

2. It means our *walk* is different.

- a. We don't live together in sin—that's fornication. We live celibate until marriage.

NOTE: If you want to know how to build relationships God's way, get my book, "*Love, Lust & Lies.*" ([show photo](#))



- b. We don't take a paycheck under the table to skirt paying taxes; Jesus said,

"Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." (*Matthew 22:22*)

- c. We don't broadcast our sins to the world; we settle them within the scope of the transgression. We are a righteous people.
- d. We don't sue other believers; we work out our differences through the Church.
- e. Men, we don't live at the strip clubs and the bar; we live sober and righteous lives.
- f. Women, we don't live in the romance novel filled with fantasies and lusts; we live in truth and the word.
- g. Women, we don't dress immodestly for attention and power; we dress modestly.

NOW, don't leave the service today and say, "Pastor said I should dress like a prude." I didn't say that; I simply said, "Dress age appropriate, and to please God."

Maybe some men like it, but to me, there's not much worse than a 50 - 60-year-old women dressing like she's a teenager. **And that goes for men, too.**

My generation would say, "It ain't cool!" Today's generation would say, "It ain't dope."

h. Sundays we go to Church; it's the Lord's Day. We tell a wicked and perverse world that God and the things of God have priority in our lives. We not only quote **Matthew 6:33**, but we also live it.

- i. Last, but not least, we forgive, understanding that it is only by the grace of God that we are forgiven; hence, we extend forgiveness to the undeserving, because as hard as it is to admit, we are undeserving.

(Back to our subject line: *We are called out of darkness into light.*)

F. Light brings a blessing; darkness brings a curse.

When you *pray, serve, tithe, support church benevolent endeavors, come along side somebody who is suffering or struggling, share the GOSPEL—you bring a blessing.* Your time, talent and treasure flip the light switch.

ILLUSTRATION: Last Sunday when our family was walking out of church to our cars, a car was pulling into the parking lot. I recognized the person and asked what brought her to the church at 1:30 in the afternoon. She replied, “I’m headed to the city with Sure House. We’re cutting hair today.” I replied, “I hope you have a portable tent.” She laughed and said, “I doubt it!” (It was 90°+.)

(Let’s wrap this up by returning to *Genesis 12.*)

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; ... and ... set out for the land of Canaan, and they (Lot, Sarai his wife, and family) arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to

Abram and said, “To your offspring^[c] I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

G. In three places the Bible says, “Abraham was the friend of God.” (2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8 & James 2:23)

God builds a nation out of a man who was His friend; There is an Israel and a Christian church today because of God’s friendship with Abraham. What does friendship require? *Time and trust.*

(TOOK) Believe me, God knows our frailties. He knows we will not always be faithful—but He will be. However, if we’re willing to repent of our sins, and give Him our *time, talent, and treasure* He will use it to bring light into a dark, and perverse world.

IV. WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

- A. Christian, return to your “first love.”**
- B. Sinner, receive Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.**

Here’s how:

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) *(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);*

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. *(Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);*

Do it today! *(Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).*

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!