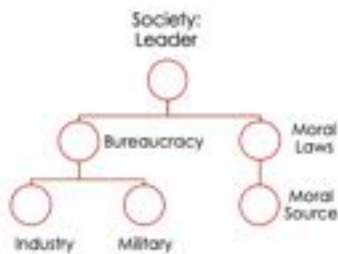


Daniel 15 – Government is Worship

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Daniel 3:1-7

Government is Worship:



- Leader focuses people's worship on the government and **its** truths
- Bureaucracy represents elites' (military & industry) social control
- Religion – social moral code defining right and wrong: Man is god (Satan)
- Laws – Translate right and wrong into dos and don'ts; penalties (**Force**)
- Modern societies claim separation of religion; delusional; morality defines government enforcement of morality with bureaucracy: Regs. and Laws

Lost Government Sprang from Woman: Unintended Consequences

- When Man and Woman sinned, God spoke of the seed of Woman freeing them from Satan, and sin's penalty; Woman's misperception, and Man's inaction, produced government which **suppresses** truth (24:21-22)
 - Women raised Cain (Given of God) as Messiah to defeat Satan, free them (24:41)
 - All other children subordinate in importance; hence, Worthless (Abel) (24:42)
 - Cain sought to inaugurate God's Kingdom by force pitting him against God and those God accepted; rather than save the weak, Cain killed him; **bully** (24:43-44)
 - God marked Cain who wandered (Nod) from God joining those who had rejected God; Cain gave one of them; his mark made him leader (24:45-46)
 - Cain built first cities which require government to control destructive sin; father of government; Cain and followers suppressed others who followed God (24:47)
 - Cain's government became so violent; God, via Cataclysm, saved truth (24:48-49)

Sin Produces Nothing New What Is, Comes from What Was (Dt 17:17)

- Postdiluvian government of Nimrod, Babel, reproduced Cain's government: integrated government and religion to produce society (Ethnic culture) (Gn 10:1-12; 11:1-9)
 - Nimrod, as intercessor between society and god(s), retained as the divergent groups self-separated developing their own society based on this model resulting in government induced violence to establish rightness: Survival of fittest - Failed
- Nebuchadnezzar's government, height of Mesopotamian culture, stretched back to Cain's antediluvian descendants via Ham and his tech (Gn 9:17-22)
 - Jabel - Nomadic husbandry (Encapsulated Nod, wanderer, in culture)
 - Jubal - Music via instruments: focused group worship by emotionalism
 - Tubal-Cain - Metallurgy: Bronze and iron; implements of war and industry
 - Agriculture left for Seth's descendants: Slaves to feed government (Gn 3:17-18; 4:10-12)

God's People Reject Images/Idols One's Mark is One's Moral Source

- God's Second Word rejects making and worshipping of images (Dt 20:4-5)
 - This is not an arbitrary rule condemning images but acknowledgement of God's infinity: God cannot be contained by His creation which declares Him as God (Jh 1:1-4; 1:9-12; Jn 4:23-24; Rm 1:9-20)
 - Idols substitute God of creation with created being: man bounded by creation to labels as infinite, modern man worships universe as idol (Jn 14:11-14; 22:26; 1-12)
 - Man is to worship infinite, creator God revealed in His Word with his whole being controlling his mind and body; metaphor: wear on forehead and right hand (Dt 6:4-5)
 - Idol focuses worship substituting Satan's lies, man's philosophies, for God's truth legitimizing man's self-worship: Mark of the beast on forehead & right hand (Rv 1:18; 20; Rm 12:10)
 - Moses' bronze serpent made an idol to be destroyed (Jh 3:14; Rm 20:18)

Nebuchadnezzar's Take-Home Lesson: He and His Government were GREAT

- Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar his empire was head of gold of his image: Nebuchadnezzar paid homage to Daniel's god but doubled-down on rightness of his god(s) and government: linked
 - Whereas Nimrod built a ziggurat of mud brick in a plain; Nebuchadnezzar would build a gold-overlaid image for worship in a plain: Dura - Dwelling
 - Worship of image worships his god and government: rejection seen as rebellion against both; i.e., him



Dimensions of the Image Foreshadowing the Number

- Daniel carefully gives dimensions
 - 210 cubits wide (Nine feet)
 - Sixty, 210 times Ten, cubits tall (Ninety feet)
 - Ten composed of 210 man, and four, judgment (Previous lessons)
- 666-metaphor shows sin is core of worship: Sin hates Righteousness
 - Idol worship worships Satan (isa 32:17)
 - Covetousness is idolatry of Satan and demons (isa 10:20-21)



Nebuchadnezzar's Image & Worship: Archetype of Future Image

- Nebuchadnezzar's empire not that large compared to later empires; but note herald's instruction and warnings
 - "You are commanded, O peoples, nations (cultures), and languages"; all, regardless of their own gods, had to worship Nebuchadnezzar's god and government or immediately be cast into the fire; Music initiated worship
 - Each could have their own religion if it was subordinated to his government's; rejection meant rebellion thus death
 - This mirrored Roman emperor worship; both foreshadowed future image
 - All government officials at all levels were required to pay allegiance, worship
 - Worship of the image meant worship of Satan, force behind all governments
 - No mention of non-elites or slaves; allegiance expected (Sorts of government)

Revelation Shows Relationship: Satan, Leader, Prophet (isa 129, 17:18)

- Satan the god behind all governments; works through bureaucratic and religious arms; all sinners dehumanized to beasts waiting to be fed (isa 17:14-20)
 - Satan, Dragon - Leviathan, stands on shore of the sea to call his two arms of government also depicted as beasts revealing their source of truth (isa 31:1, 27:1)
 - Leader and his Prophet depicted as beasts showing the degradation of sin away from the image of God in which man originally created (isa 1:28-29)
 - Antichrist, beast, leader, unites his people to Leviathan as source of morality
 - Prophet, lamb, religious arm legitimizing Antichrist focusing people's attention via an image to worshiped or die
 - Mark is philosophical foundation securing people's consent who already reject God; Antichrist will be marked like Cain, legitimized by his mark (isa 1:18-19, 1:2)
 - People willingly accept Antichrist's delusion, it corresponds to their myths: Marks (isa 27:12-13, 28:17-18, 29:16)




Satan Controls Nebuchadnezzar: Blinded by His Own Brilliance

- Nebuchadnezzar's performs these actions, supplemented by his wise men who probably seek to regain legitimacy by massaging his ego; Satan's methodology never changes giving us insight into the future
 - When the music sounded every government official from every people within his kingdom worshiped the image giving allegiance to Satan and Nebuchadnezzar
 - Threat of fiery death not a prime motivator; commonality of sin unifies all religions, thus governments: willing obedience (Monarchy-Nation socialism-Regionalism)
 - Fiery furnace touch of satire of Satan; he knows he is condemned to Lake of Fire, he uses fire to threaten those who **cannot** worship him without condemning themselves: Our next lesson (Isa 48:11; 19:20; 20:1-19)
 - Mirrors the future: all peoples, tongues and cultures willingly worship because their works-religions infly under False Prophet's overarching religion: Sans Christ (Isa 13:2-6)



Faith and Government Inexorably Intertwined: Even God's Government

- Satan has constantly sought to turn God's people against Him
 - Adam led into sin (Isa 2:14)
 - Jews continual immersion in idolatry resulted in their captivity and subsequent murder of their Messiah
 - Satan uses all elements of culture to bind the minds of people holding them: as willing captives in their sin
 - Even knowledge of the truth cannot save them (Isa 2:19; 66:4-10)
- Satan is the King of Babylon (Isa 14:4)
 - He uses Judaism to advance his plan against God, False Judaism is Babylon's Mystery Religion until he is ready to unveil direct worship of himself; then he joyfully destroys the traitorous harlot, False Judaism (Isa 23:11; 23:16-24:24; 46:11; 48:11; 51:17-24; 52:10)



Christians Fall Prey to Error Despite Clear Bible Teaching

- Modern influences are dividing true churches from false Christendom assemblies much as True Jews were divided from False Jews
 - Music has always been, and remains, primarily a worship tool revealing one's true source of morality
 - Nineteenth century evangelists, apart from churches, used music to sway the crowds: Wesley; Moody; etc.
 - Twentieth century evangelists continued this trend diluting the gospel: Graham, Pentecostals; Bethel; Hillsong; etc.
 - Whence goes unguarded mind via music so also goes doctrinal understanding leading the ignorant and foolish to the false gospel of self and Satan
 - Acceptance of small changes in truth lead to eventual rejection of His gospel and salvation; entire denominations fall away until only a persecuted few cling to Christ (Isa 2:3)