

Introduction

I'd like to begin by asking you a question. How many times does our United States Constitution mention "**God**"? The answer is "'0'" times. Article VII, which concludes it, does date its ratification using the term "**in the Year of our Lord.**" But otherwise God isn't mentioned even once. Progressives take that to mean that our Constitution is a secular document. But it is not! It's a divine document instead and that's what I'm going to preach about today – God in our Constitution. Daniel 2:19-23 teaches us how He is.

A Divine Constitution

Verse 19 mentions "**the mystery.**" That mystery was a dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had and that he demanded his wise men identify and interpret. He'd have their heads if they didn't. So, Daniel, one of those wise men, asked God to reveal the dream and its interpretation to him, which He did. Daniel then blessed Him for doing so in verses 20-23, disclosing two remarkable insights about Him in the process.

One is found in the first line of verse 21. God "**changes the times and the epochs.**" He is, in other words, the Lord of history. History isn't just a series of random events going nowhere. It's God's project instead that He guides and directs. One of the ways He does, in the second line of verse 21, is that "**He removes and establishes kings.**" Think of any historical leader like Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Genghis Kan, George Washington, or Joseph Stalin to name a few. They and all leaders gained and lost power pursuant to either the permissive or active will of God. He either allowed or caused the circumstances that led to their rise and fall, which demonstrates that He is the Lord of history.

Daniel's blessing disclosed a second remarkable insight about God. According to verse 22, He knows things that human beings can't discover for themselves. Also, He reveals some of those things to them like the

dream and its meaning to Daniel. The third and fourth lines of verse 21 make a related point. He gives wisdom and knowledge to those who have them. He is, in other words, the Lord of wisdom and knowledge. If people have those, it's because He gave them to them, which explains our United States Constitution.

I studied it for a year and in my opinion, it's the greatest political document ever drafted. It's a work of sheer genius. But you don't have to take my word for it. You can take British Prime Minister William Gladstone's who called it **"the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of men."**

Gladstone identified its source to be **"the brain of men."** But its ultimate source was the **"mind of God."** James Madison, the father of our Constitution, wrote in that regard, **"It is impossible not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand."** Alexander Hamilton, originator of the Federalist Papers promoting it, agreed. He said, **"I sincerely esteem it a system, which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon."** According to verse 21, Madison and Hamilton were right. God gave its framers the wisdom that generated it, which makes it a **"divine Constitution."**

Now, because it is, we'd expect it to reflect divine wisdom, the very mind of God Himself, which it does, in two ways.

Discerns the Best and Highest Goals

One way is in its aims or goals. The very first element of wisdom is discerning the best and highest goal or goals in the situation or context before us. Romans 13 reveals what those goals are for government. Government is to restrain evil and promote justice so that its citizens can enjoy what our Declaration of Independence calls **"inalienable rights,"** including **"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."**

Well, our Constitution, according to its Preamble, seeks to achieve just those goals for its citizens. The Preamble is a brief introductory statement that articulates what it purposes to do. Listen carefully as I

read it: ***"We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States."***

Some historians contend that the ideology of the Constitution is at odds with that of the Declaration of Independence. But it isn't. The words **"Justice," "domestic Tranquility,"** and **"the common defense"** in the Preamble assure **"life."** The words **"Blessings of Liberty"** assure **"liberty."** And the words **"the general Welfare,"** as that was defined in 1787, assure the **"pursuit of happiness."**

Establishing and preserving those **"inalienable rights"** for citizens is the best and highest goal of government and our Constitution aims to do just that.

The Means

It reflects divine wisdom in another way. The second element of wisdom is employing the optimal means for achieving the best and highest goals. Our Constitution, through its **"architecture"** or structure does just that. Its structure, generally, is the Preamble, which I've already mentioned, seven Articles, and 27 Amendments, which together create our entire Federal Government. That structure has five animating principles, each of which I'll identify and very briefly explain.

The first principle is Popular Sovereignty. It states that the source of governmental power is the people. The people collectively not the government is sovereign. The people don't exist to do the will of the government. The government exists to do the will of the people.

That first principle necessarily implies the second, which is Limited Government. Since the people give the government its powers, it is limited to the powers that they give it. It must follow its own laws and can act using only those powers that the people have given it.

The third principle is the Separation of Powers. The federal

government is divided into three branches, each of which has its own purpose. The legislative branch makes the laws, the executive branch executes the laws, and the judicial branch interprets the laws. This separation prevents a concentration of power, which is the root of tyranny.

Checks and Balances is the fourth principle. In carrying out its purpose, each branch is subject to the checks and balances of the other two. The President, for instance, can veto legislation, the Supreme Court can declare acts of Congress unconstitutional, and the Senate can block treaties and presidential appointments. Checks and balances prevent any one branch from usurping the powers of the other two. It's designed to maximize freedom not efficiency and does.

The fifth and final principle is Federalism. Federalism means that the powers of government are divided between the federal and the state governments – in two ways. First, the federal government *can do nothing* unless *a specific provision in our Constitution authorizes it*. If no provision authorizes it, it can't do it. Second, the state governments *can do anything* unless *a specific provision in our Constitution prohibits it*. If no provision prohibits it, they can do it.

Those are the animating principles that characterize the architecture or structure of our Constitution. Together, they establish and preserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for every American.

Let me give you a quick example of this. Can the states impose trade barriers on each other? No, they cannot! Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the famous Commerce Clause, impliedly prohibits them from doing so. If that provision weren't there, the states could impose trade barriers on each other, which would create chaos and much higher cost of living for us all.

The Commerce Clause illustrates the second way our Constitution reflects the wisdom and mind of God. The first is that it discerns the best and highest goals of government. The second is that it employs the optimal means for achieving those goals.

Be Faithful to the Constitution

Our Constitution is divine, in other words, and we should be faithful to it because it is. It's a matter of discipleship to Jesus that we are. Good citizens are faithful to our Constitution. Good Christians, as Daniel Webster pointed out, are good citizens. Good Christians, therefore, are faithful to our Constitution. We do three things.

First, we know it. One of the biggest misconceptions people have is that it's a document for attorneys and judges. It is not! On the contrary, it was written for those in whose name it was cast, "**we the people.**" In *The Federalist Papers*, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay emphasized that it was written for the populace, the masses – you and me. It is short, straightforward, and clear-cut. With a few exceptions here and there, legal and technical terms are absent from it. Consequently, each of us can and should study and know it. Doing so is our very first responsibility as citizens.

We're faithful to our Constitution by doing a second thing. We participate in the republic it created. Our form of government is a constitutional republic. As such, the power resides in the people. Because it does, the people must participate in the political processes that run the government. What that participation is depends on the circumstances. It may be that we write or call our elected officials, lobby, protest, practice civil disobedience, run for office, and most certainly of all, vote intelligently. I say "**most certainly of all**" because citizens voting intelligently is foundational to a constitutional republic. The simple fact is that we aren't good citizens if we don't vote.

We do a third thing to be faithful to our Constitution, which is fundamental to the second, participation. We think hard and well about political matters. Unfortunately, the masses in America don't.

Listen to what Adolph Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf*: "**Since the masses have only a poor acquaintance with abstract ideas, their reactions lie in the domain of feelings Such being the case, all effective propaganda must be confined to a few bare**

necessities and then be expressed in a few stereotyped formulas.”

Hitler claimed that feeling not thought moved the masses to support candidates and issues and he was right. That’s how he rose to power in fact. He made the masses feel not think.

And so it is today. The political responses of the masses in America lie primarily in the domain of feeling. Feeling more than thought determines what they decide and do politically. Emotion more than reason moves them to support the candidates and issues they do. That’s why modern candidates and issue groups do what Hitler did – rely on emotive slogans and campaigns that make people feel, not think.

Good Christians and citizens, however, aren’t sucked in by all that. Their political responses lie solely in the domain of thought. Thought not feeling determines what they decide and do politically. Reason not emotion moves them to support the candidates and issues they do.

So, let’s be good Christians and citizens by thinking hard and well about the candidates and issues. We do four things. First, we get informed by learning as many facts about them as we can. Second, we analyze the facts in terms of Biblical knowledge, beliefs, and values. Third, we use good logic to draw valid conclusions from our analysis. And fourth, we participate consistently with our conclusions.

Conclusion

When my son Moses enlisted in the Marines, he took an oath, the opening line of which is this: **“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.”** The truth is that all of us, as disciples of Jesus, should make that same commitment – to bear true faith and allegiance to it. We should know it, participate in the republic it created, and think hard and well about political matters. Why? Because it’s a divine Constitution! God is in it!