

Who Selects the U.S. President?

Commentary for October 15, 2020 — Only God's Vote Counts

Director's Note: I published this Commentary on October 7, 2004. I reprint it now because it retains its relevance now as it did 16 years ago. Understand that I choose to vote. Why? Because I want to learn if I agree with God's sovereign choice. You can agree or disagree with me. You are at liberty in Christ to vote or not vote, just as I am.

This Commentary will show that as Jesus said to God His Father, **"Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"** (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2) regarding the people he puts in control of countries as He sees fit to place them. That includes for how long He wishes people to serve or rule. Remember, God also chooses the borders of the nations (Acts 17:

"[He] has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined

[1] the times before appointed [how long they live in a land], and

[2] the bounds [borders] of their habitation."

• Acts 17:26

It is important to do your duty as a citizen of the country where you live. It is important to vote if you have the freedom to do so. However, how the electorate of the United States votes, although counted, means little as to who will be President of the United States after this election. What counts is what God wants. What matters is the person who God selects to lead a country and how long He allows that man to lead or rule. Only God's vote counts.

God's Vote for Nebuchadnezzar

In history there has been only one man who was a true "world ruler." That was Nebuchadnezzar, King of the Neo-Babylonian empire which encompassed the entire known world at the time of the 6th century BC. We should read carefully in the Bible what Nebuchadnezzar does and what Nebuchadnezzar says. He is a type of the coming world ruler, the antichrist.

In a past Commentary I have noted the point made by Nebuchadnezzar, the "ruler of the world," when he wrote to his subjects in a world-wide proclamation. It comprises the entire 4th chapter of the Book of Daniel. In that chapter Nebuchadnezzar tells Daniel the details of a second profound dream he had. Nebuchadnezzar tells some of the words he heard in a prophetic dream:

"Let his [Nebuchadnezzar's] heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent [for the purpose] that the living may know

- [1] **that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and**
 [2] **gives it to whomsoever he will, and**
 [3] **sets up over it the basest of men.**"

• **Daniel 4:16–17**

This passage makes it clear that God, "**the most High,**" selects rulers and governors — and selects them for whatever reason He sees fit, and to "**whomsoever He will.**" In other words, God chose or "voted" for Nebuchadnezzar to be King of Babylon, and God's decisions were, according to this passage, carried out by "**the watchers**" (whoever they are), as they saw fit.

Note that the last statement of Daniel 4:17 does not relate to Nebuchadnezzar alone, but it declares that it applies to all other rulers as well. I think it means the most and probably all rulers of all nations throughout history.¹

It certainly applied to the rulers of Israel and Judah and applies to rulers today; however, they rise to power. Although Nebuchadnezzar was the primary referent of "**the basest of men,**" it is highly likely (no matter how congenial or friendly or "honest" or open to "the people") the leaders of all countries are included in the statement as "**the basest of men.**"²

By the way, Nebuchadnezzar was elected by his "people" in a sense. After his father died Nebuchadnezzar rose to inherit the throne. His ascension to the throne was approved (voted on) by the noble families of the empire. The nobles, in a sense, represented the common free people of the Babylonian Empire. However, once he took the throne, he ruled with an iron fist. He was a cruel man, a butcher of men. Perhaps we should consider ourselves blessed when our "base" leaders perform even some good acts. As we near the end times hopefully laws will restrict our rulers somewhat as much as our rulers lord it over the ruled.

Nebuchadnezzar's Heart Is Changed

God not only chooses which men and women rule nations, but God also chooses how a man will rule or govern, and God even influences the decisions a ruler makes. The best examples, of course, are the decisions of Pharaoh before the Israelite departure from Egypt (Exodus

¹ Although Nebuchadnezzar gives the proclamation letter to all his subjects, Daniel included it in his writings. If what Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed was not true, Daniel would have said so. He lived after Nebuchadnezzar's death and served other Babylonian kings and Darius the Mede. He also preserved the Jewish books that were taken to Babylon, including the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets. These were taken back to Judea by Ezra and Nehemiah. See Dr. Ernest Martin's [Restoring the Original Bible](#), particularly "[Chapter 12: The Old Testament Periods of Canonization](#)."

² Examine the life of King David, ruler of the twelve tribes of the Kingdom of Israel. He had a glorious record according to men. He was a charismatic leader. God Himself declared David to be a kind of man He sought to rule His people, a man "**after His own heart**" (1 Samuel 13:14; and Acts 13:22).

Nevertheless, King David had base faults to his character. David was a bloody man. So bloody that it prevented God from allowing David to build God's Temple. David was a murderer who killed a soldier who trusted his king, so David could possess Bathsheba as another of his many wives. David's ego caused YHWH to punish him by causing a plague to strike many of the people of Jerusalem — all because of the base ego of their King David.

4:18–14:31, Psalm 105:23). The most important of Pharaoh's decisions were God's decisions. The biblical texts tell us that God's decisions of what Pharaoh did were often contrary to Pharaoh's own natural inclinations. A passage in Proverbs explains how God does this:

"The king's heart is in the hand of YHWH, as the rivers of water: he turns it whithersoever He will [however He chooses]."

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but YHWH ponders the hearts."

• **Proverbs 21:1–2**

In Daniel chapter 4 God changes Nebuchadnezzar's heart from the heart of a man to a heart of a beast. Nebuchadnezzar had the heart or the personality of an ox for 7 years, eating grass, drinking water, and eliminating waste like an animal. He remained that way until God changed his heart back to the heart of a man.

Proverbs 21:2 must be considered in light of verse 1. Both verses talk about how God relates to the hearts of men. Clearly the rulers of this earth are subject to whatever changes God makes in their decisions to alter the course of events in their lives and leadership. As always, subtle changes can have large effects. *Young's Literal Translation* shows the proper emphasis from the Hebrew of Proverbs:

"Rivulets of waters is the heart of a king in the hand of YHWH, Wherever He pleases He inclines it.

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, And YHWH is pondering hearts."

• **Proverbs 21:1–2, Young's**

The illustration being used here is that of small irrigation channels being changed so that a slight adjustment in the flow of water greatly affects and benefit one field over another at the whim of the farmer. See other examples of God's directing the heart in Ezra 7:27–28 and Revelation 17:17. Sometimes God allows us to harden our hearts. Sometimes He Himself hardens hearts. See my July 2003 Commentary, "[Callousness of the Heart](#)."

God's Intervention

The man elected on November 3, 2020 will, God willing, take power in January 2021 to lead and govern the most powerful nation in the world for the next four years. Remember too that if God wishes to intervene, He could cause events to happen so that neither major candidate would take office. Or the winner could be prevented from taking office after the election. Or the winner would not serve out his full term of office. Remember that God is in charge. God has total control of events.

God's Election — of You

By the way, your position in God's affection (though not yet realized in this life) is much higher than that of a king, more than a Prime Minister or a President. Never forget this point. God has already intervened in and directed your life so you will inherit, when God sees fit to give it to you, the entire created universe. Understanding that point, you should act according to the dignity that God expects from you so that you will be worthy of your future and present situation — seated legally with Christ at the right hand of God the Father.

In fact, this is the message of the writings of the apostles written after the revelation of “the Mystery,” how to live while properly knowing your position in the world and the world to come. The Gospel of John, the epistles of 2 Peter, Romans (particularly the last chapter), Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Hebrews, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon all contain about one-half to two-thirds of their total number of words on how to live as a Christian in freedom.

While we seem limited in power, yet we have tremendous responsibilities to study, learn, understand and to act wisely toward those who do not yet know God’s future salvation of themselves and the world. You do know God’s future for you. You cannot afford to be one of **“the basest of men.”**

However, there is one area we have full authority and approval from God to act. We have the power and authority to pray, as Paul instructed Timothy:

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; [why? So] that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.”

• 1 Timothy 2:1–3

Is it not interesting that Paul instructed Timothy to pray **“for kings and for all that are in authority”**? Paul knew that God chose **“the basest of men.”** Nonetheless Paul recommended prayer so that God may influence those governors to give general peace to our surroundings rather than chaos.

Regarding you and your situation, God has already voted. He has voted for you. He has already acted and chosen you individually — by lottery — to know the full truth of God, **“the Mystery”** (Romans 16:25; Ephesians 1:9, 3:3f, 9, 6:19; Colossians 1:26, 2:2, 4:3; 1 Timothy 3:9, 16; Revelation 10:7).

Use that knowledge to gain understanding. Combine that knowledge and understanding to act with wisdom in all your life’s endeavors. Above all, as Peter, John, and Paul say, repeating the strong admonition of Jesus: **“love one another”** (John 13:34f, 15:12, 17; 1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11f; 2 John 1:5; Romans 12:10, 13:8; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 4:9; Hebrews 10:24). It was for that purpose you were elected by God, but not because of any merit on your part. It was a lottery. Nevertheless, God has voted, and He chose you. (Search for “lottery” in the ASK search engine.)

At present we truly live in “interesting times.” The news and the talking heads that highlight the chaos around us seems profound, changes that threaten our futures. **“There is no new thing under the sun”** (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The words are particularly true regarding interpersonal relations between people, communities, and even nations. Remember, God is on His throne, He is in control, and prayer changes things.

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