

3. God, Politics and the Church

www.victory.net.nz 08.10.2023
www.youtube.com/c/VictoryChristianCentre

Key Date:

- Saturday 14 October – Election Day (9.00am to 7.00pm)

Electoral Roll:

- Voting without enrolment on the Electoral Roll is not possible
- Everyone 18 years old & above is legally required to enrol
- Enrolment is possible right up to, & including Election Day on 14 October
- <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION

Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV) *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*

- Many politicians would have us believe that:
 - A good economy lifts us a nation
 - A good education lifts a nation
 - Clean rivers or clean air lift up a nation, etc.
- But God says: Righteousness exalts a nation!

NET marginal Note: “exalt” - means “to lift up; to raise up; to elevate.” Here the upright dealings of the leaders and the people will lift up (all) the people. The people’s condition in that nation will be raised.

- The leaders & the people of any nation must deal uprightly if they wish all the people’s condition to be raised
 - Therefore, we cannot solely blame the leaders of the nation for a lack of uprightness - we the people must also take responsibility
 - But here is what happens:
 - When there is moral rot at the top, it tends to flow downwards
 - In 2020, under a Labour-led government, the NZ Parliament passed one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world
 - Jacinta Ardern, the then-leader of the Labour party campaigned that she would take abortion out of the Crimes Act & make it a health issue only
 - It allows for late-term abortions, right up to birth
 - It denies assistance to babies born alive in botched abortions
- <https://familyfirst.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Abortion-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

- In 2021 the “End of Life Choice Act” came into force, having been introduced to Parliament by David Seymour, the leader of the ACT Party
- Many politicians & entire political parties are part of a “death cult”, promoting & voting for the killing of pre-born babies, the infirm, depressed and the elderly

Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

Righteous:

- to be just in character and conduct, to be morally upright
- the root word connotes conformity to a high ethical or moral standard
- the original significance of the root word “*šdq*” means ‘to be straight’

Wicked:

- the ungodly & hostile to God
- those guilty of violating God’s standards, laws & principles

Christians should first and foremost look for the moral qualities of political candidates before they look for their political qualification.

2. A DEPRESSED NZ ECONOMY & THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

- Recently the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calculated the economic (GDP) growth forecast of 159 countries
- According to their findings, NZ ranks #158 among these 159 nations
- According to the IMF, NZ is now running the second largest fiscal deficit of all developed economies
- In June 2023, NZ's economy has officially slipped into a recession
- Under the current Labour Government, Core Crown Debt has exploded out to more than 160 billion dollars
- This equates to \$82,175.- for every NZ household
- <https://www.debtclock.nz>
- **Yet recently, Chris Hipkins said: “New Zealand's economic fundamentals are in good shape”**

3. THE 6 P’S OF POLITICAL PARTIES & POLITICAL CANDIDATES:

1. Personalities	4. Political Philosophy (Manifesto)
2. Promises	5. Principles of Morality
3. Policies	6. Past Voting Record

- Election campaigns are mostly focused on personalities & promises

- The heart is the “seat of our morality” and the “centre of our character”.
- Many politicians are bright in their head, but morally bankrupt in their heart
- They impress people with their public speaking ability or their use of clever words and clichés, yet their character is questionable at best
- Their past voting record shows the level of morality in their heart
- <https://valueyourvote.org.nz/2020-general-election/>
- <http://voiceforlife.org.nz/>

1 Samuel 16:8–11 (NKJV) *So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.”*

5. Most of Jesse’s sons were rejected for the king’s role

According to tradition, leadership should have been given to the oldest, and then to the second oldest, and so on. God refused the older sons and gave the leadership to the younger son called David.

- God used the “Process of Elimination” to bring Samuel to His choice of who must be the next king
- When we head to the voting booth in less than a week, let’s use the process of elimination until we arrive at God’s choice

1 Samuel 16:11-12 (NKJV) *And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”*

Interesting, God choose the underdog, the keeper of the sheep, the most unlikely candidate to be the next king.

Acts 13:21–22 (NKJV) *And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’*