

ONE: HEALING THE POLITICAL DIVIDE

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Matthew 24:7a NKJ

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...”

Matthew 24:10 NKJ

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”

Matthew 24:11 NKJ

“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”

Matthew 24:12 NKJ

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

Matthew 24:14 NKJ

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJ

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

John 18:36 NKJ

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

Two Kingdoms:

1. The Kingdom of the World
2. The Kingdom of God

Political Right: Conservatives represent a view of government that governs from a financially conservative view of lower taxation, fiscal responsibility, against abortion, gay marriage and illegal immigration. A government of law and order.

Political Left: Liberals represent a view of government that is concerned about the plight of the poor, the plight of minorities, the state of human rights (women's rights, LGBT rights, immigrants' rights, etc.). They govern from a financially liberal view of higher taxation on the wealthier of America in order to help those who are struggling in the lower tiers of life. A government of fairness when it comes to law and order.

Psalm 89:14 NKJ

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

The entire government of God is summed up in two words:

- Righteousness and Justice

Psalm 97:2 NKJ

Clouds and darkness surround Him; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE are the foundation of His throne.

Isaiah 28:16-17a NLT

Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken. I will test you with the measuring line of JUSTICE and the plumb line of RIGHTEOUSNESS..."

Righteousness: living right; conforming to a moral code of conduct prescribed by God's Word

Justice: doing right; correcting the injustices of society; defending the poor and marginalized

Matthew 12:25 NCV

... "Every kingdom that is divided against itself will be destroyed. And any city or family that is divided against itself will not continue."

Psalm 9:8

He will judge the world in righteousness and govern the peoples with justice.

John 1:14-17 NCV

The Word became a human and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father—and he was full of GRACE AND TRUTH. John tells the truth about him and cries out, saying, "This is the One I told you about: 'The One who comes after me is greater than I am, because he was living before me.'" Because he was full of grace and truth, from him we all received one gift after another. The law was given through Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NLT

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—NONE OF THESE WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

1 Corinthians 6:11 NLT

Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" – Emma Lazarus, Statue of Liberty

"Americans hailed newcomers to its shores as the bulwark of democracy; however, in times of crisis it has also used its foreign

born as a scapegoat for unsolved social problems.” – **Benjamin Franklin**

Exodus 22:21 NLT

“You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”

The Challenge:

1. Seek to understand rather than be understood.
2. Let the Word be your standard for living and loving.
3. Trade your worldly identity for a Christ identity.