

Genesis 21.22-34

The Prince and the Patriarch

Picture of Man of God and the King on GOOD TERMS / many times Bible contrary

Failure on BOTH SIDES / Complicate Relationship

State / Gov't – ORDAINED BY GOD – to restrain the power of evil in society

Romans 13 – Gov't Ordained by God / 1 Tim 2 “pray for those in authority”

Ephes 6 “spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms”

Rev 17 – Gov't is BEAST / Rev 18 – Fallen Babylon soon to be Destroyed

EXPLANATION OF CONTRADICTION? – relationship with God

Is the State fulfilling its God given role and calling / Or is it acting as God's enemy?

SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE CHURCH – both good and bad examples
SOMETIMES CHURCH AND ITS LEADERS IS BEST TOOL OF THE DEVIL

1. Relationship between Church & State
2. Partnership between Church & State
3. Difference between Church & State

1. Relationship between Church & State

Not first mtg btwn Abe & Abimelech - Gen 20, than later in Gen 26

MUTUAL RESPECT

Not surprised if Abimelech DID NOT RESPECT – Abe

20.11 ABE TO ABIM “Surely there is no fear of God in this place – you will kill me”

EVEN DESPITE ABE'S LIE – Abimelech was impressed with Abe - 21.22

WHAT DO UNBELIEVER'S SEE IN US – DO WE HAVE GOOD REPUTATION?

DOES KZ SEE GOOD THINGS FROM THE CHURCH? / God is with us?

Opened Schools, Hospitals, Libraries, Orphanages, Drug Addiction Centers
GOSPEL MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY GOOD WORKS

GREAT FAILURES ARE NOTICED / RC leaders mtg now about bad priests
MOST IMPT THING IS YOUR INTEGRITY – once lost, difficult to regain

ABE RESPECTED ABIM – he was a man of INTEGRITY and KINDNESS

RESPECT REQUIRED EVEN FOR BAD LEADERS – Jesus and Pilate
Lk 13 – Galileans murdered when offering sacrifices / OVERSAW JESUS MURDER

John 19 – Jesus APPROVED Pilate’s Authority – given to him by God

Christians should RESPECT LEADERS, police, officials – Even CORRUPT ONES

2. Partnership between Church & State

SOUNDS STRANGE – Christians cannot Partner with Eachother / DIVISIONS

1) CONCERN FOR PEACE –

Abim – probably FEARED Abe – Gen 14 Military Strength / SPIRITUAL POWER

Motives? UNKNOWN – Abim wanted Peace v. 23 / v. 24 Abe agreed

Mt 5.9 “Blessed are the PeaceMAKERS, for they will be called sons of God”

ENCOURAGE GOV’T TO DO ITS PART / Ambassador of the Prince of Peace

2) Work TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE– concern for peace leads to concern for Justice

WITHOUT JUSTICE THERE CAN BE NO TRUE PEACE

SOURCE OF CONFLICT – Well of Water / IF UNRESOLVED – Constant Fighting

v. 26 Abim – did not know about his servants taking Abe’s well / WANTS PEACE

Gifts of Abe / ACT OF JUSTICE / WITNESS TO THEIR AGREEMENT

TOO OFTEN CHURCH IS IN UNNECESSARY CONFLICT WITH GOV’T

ALLOW RUMORS TO DEFINE US / NO DISCUSSION / NO COMMON GOALS
Clean water / Improved health care / More jobs / better education / future for Children

v. 34 ABE stayed in the land a long time / LIVED IN PEACE AND JUSTICE

CLEAR TESTIMONY to GOD / CLEAR DESIRE for PEACE WITH MAN & GOD

3. Difference between Church & State

v. 32 ABIM – went on his way

v. 33 ABE called on the Lord

The Lord, the ETERNAL GOD / God's Faithfulness – 30 yrs. Isaac born PROMISE

NOT JUST GOD OF OUR LIFE TIME / OUR NATION / GOD OF ALL TIME

MANY NAMES OF GOD – DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF HIS CHARACTER

PRAYER OF JESUS – John 17

Pray for church – “do not take them out of world” – IN THE WORLD

“but they are not of the world” – NEW IDENTITY, NEW DESTINY

“go into the world” – SENT INTO WORLD IN JESUS NAME

IN THE EARTH – as Salt / IN THE WORLD – as Light / Reflect HIM, True Light