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"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."

PSALM 119:105

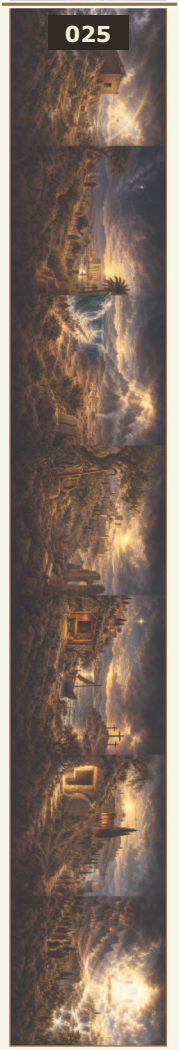
A Model For
Secession



JOHN WEAVER

WEAVER BIBLE COLLEGE





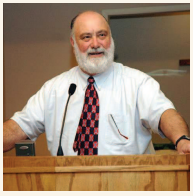
We ought to obey God rather than men.

ACTS 5:29, EXCERPT

John Weaver considers separation from corrupt authority through biblical history and the responsibilities of obedience. These messages connect civil and spiritual corruption, repentance, and the limits of human government. The reader is invited to examine the scriptural arguments behind the volume's proposed model rather than to treat political arrangements as beyond moral judgment.

“Secession is a peaceful, lawful, legal means of separation.”

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

John Weaver's sermons form the teaching collection presented by Weaver Bible College. This volume gathers his teaching from that collection.

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A Model For Secession

Civil Government

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CHAPTER 1

A Model For Secession

Part One of Two

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Kings 12:1-11 (KJV)

Introduction: Secession in the News

Let's open our Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 12. And we're going to read the first 19 verses. Let me just go ahead and say that the message today is the first part of a two-part message. And of course today will be more introduction and foundation for that which I'll be sharing next week. The title of the message is "A Model for Secession." I've preached on this subject several times in the past. When I read through the Scripture again, this really jumped out at me, and so I want to bring it again fresh and a different look at it. So 1 Kings chapter 12, verse 1: "And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) that they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake

> unto Rehoboam, saying, Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee. And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

"So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. But as for the children of

Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day."

Secession has been in the news for the last year or two. Many Americans, as well as people of other nations, have secession on their mind. A recent poll showed that one out of every four Americans were ready to secede or depart from Washington, D.C.; in Texas and a few western states, it was one in every three. Stop and think about the impact of that poll: either one quarter or one third of Americans are ready to depart from Washington, D.C. They're fed up with the tyrannical bureaucratic government. Those interested in staying are probably on the government dole or work for the government themselves.

Many of you will remember that recently Scotland endeavored to secede from England, and of course the vote failed, but then there was evident fraud as well, and undoubtedly there are still challenges to that vote count going on—and moreover Scotland is still making further efforts to secede from the United Kingdom. I used to have a shirt a long time ago that had a picture of a Confederate battle flag on it, and it had written across it, "If at first you do not secede, try and try again." So evidently, I'm sure Scotland is going to keep trying as well. You can mark this down, that the fact is that bureaucrats and tyrants will always have a desire to keep their subjects in line. Why? Because a tyrant without subjects and a bureaucracy without people to regulate will soon dissipate and come absolutely to nothing.

I hope you remember also that the Catalonians in Spain are seeking to secede as well. In fact, there are secession movements all across the world and especially even here in the United States. Did you know that the state of California was thinking of dividing into six different sections? And honestly, Northern Californians have absolutely nothing in common with Southern Californians. I can assure you of that right now. But Northern Colorado was also talking about seceding from Southern Colorado and beginning another state as well. And then, of course, Hawaii and Alaska have been talking

about seceding as well, and Texas has been bold with it. And what a lot of people do not realize is this, that most states actually are self-sufficient and would have enough resources to be absolutely independent of the federal government. And someone says, "Well, you have to remember about all the money that the federal government gives to the states." Well, you ever think about this? If the states were to stop sending money to the federal government, then they would not need any of that money back. They would have everything that they needed as well.

Here is a recent headline that I want to read to you. The title of it is, "Secession Theology Runs Deep in American Religious and Political History." It is only three brief paragraphs. It goes like this: "Corruption has gone too far. The righteous must break away. Hope now rests with a holy remnant that will honor foundational texts. The message sounds familiar. A church schism? No. Mounting calls for a secession from the United States. Since President Obama won re-election, more than 750,000 Americans have petitioned the White House website to let their respective states secede from Alaska to Iowa to Maryland to Vermont. Those leading the charge are framing it, observers say, in terms of a deep-seated religious impulse for purity through separation, and that is flaring up once again." Now, while you stop and think about that, it's impressive that 750,000 people want to secede.

But on the other hand, remember this: it was the states that created the federal government, not the federal government creating the states. The states are the masters, and the federal government is the servant. The states do not need permission from the federal government to do anything. Masters do not seek permission from servants to act; they simply act. So historically and legally, states really do not need permission from the federal government to do anything. It is astounding how many people are awake to the idea of secession and how important it really is.

I recently ran across a quote, and I was absolutely shocked—not by the quote, but by who said it. I have believed the quote for years, but the author shocked me. Here is the quote: "Without the right of secession, there is no freedom. Any entity that is part of a union but

does not have the right to leave is not free." That quote came from Bruce Willis, the Hollywood action star.

The point is this: if secession thinking is penetrating and saturating Hollywood, where else is it going? The more corrupt our government becomes, the more we lose our freedoms, and the more anyone with one ounce of sense will desire to depart from that federal government, have liberty and freedom, and set up a government that is not so corrupt and tyrannical. Governments usually die from their own stupidity and corruption, and our government is no exception.

The Nature of Secession

Now let me make several points before I begin showing you some Scripture. Secession is not revolution; it is not taking up arms. Secession is a peaceful, lawful, legal means of separation. We are not attacking the government. We are saying, here is your corrupt government, and anyone who wants it is welcome to stay and support it. However, we who are tired of tyranny and bureaucracy will withdraw and set up our own government. It is not a fight to take over the government; it is simply a withdrawal to set up our own government. Secession does not necessarily result in war. Numerous countries have had secession movements that succeeded peacefully.

In fact, the secession movement in the United States in 1860 and 1861 would have been peaceful had it not been for Northern treachery and Lincoln's unconstitutional acts. There would have never been a war. Lincoln himself said, "Let the South go? Where will I get my tariffs from?" The South furnished 80 to 85 percent of all the money in the federal government at that time, and Lincoln referred to the South as his milk cow. Lincoln also confessed and acknowledged six violations of the Constitution, but there were a whole multitude more of his violations that he did not confess to and acknowledge that can be very easily proven. So obviously, we would have had a peaceful secession had it not been for Northern treachery and Lincoln's unconstitutional acts.

Today I want to share one point with two thoughts under it: the motivation for secession. We will get into this text in more detail

next week. What motivates people to secede or withdraw from a government? The answer usually comes back: they have a desire for freedom. If you secede because you have a desire for freedom, that means you did not have the freedom previously that you desired. You are leaving for freedom, so therefore you did not have the freedom previously. Then you have to ask: Why did you not have the freedom previously? What happened to cause you to become disenchanted, disillusioned, and enslaved by your former government whereby now you want liberty and freedom? I am going to show you that 1 Kings 11 and 12 have the answers that can be applied to any nation, any country, under any circumstances. Now I am going to give you two thoughts today under the motivation for secession.

The Motivation for Secession: Spiritual Corruption

I want you to understand that these two thoughts are not only connected, they are interconnected. You might say that one is the consequence and the cause of the other. You really cannot have one without having the other. So, what is the first one? The first one is spiritual corruption.

Now, look in your Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 11. But before we read, note that spiritual corruption is always the starting point. Men are covenantal creatures; whenever we leave God and His Law and the totality of His Word, we corrupt everything. Every institution God has created—the family, the church, and the state—is corrupted by spiritual disobedience. If I asked who one of the wisest men that ever lived was, you would answer Solomon, and he was. See how Solomon, one of the wisest men, turned his government and nation into absolute chaos and idolatry through spiritual corruption. Begin reading with verse 1 through verse 10.

The Bible says, "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three

hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon."

"And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded." So Solomon, one of the wisest men that ever lived, turned Israel into a heathenistic society when previously it had been the people of God. A monotheistic religion and society is now turned into an idolatrous polytheistic society by the highest civil official in the land. It was government that brought this idolatry into being. When civil government promotes idolatry, it is not in the best interest of the people. Many of the religions Solomon was promoting were power religions that deified the king and gave absolutely unlimited power and authority to government. So he was allowing all of this idolatry, acquiring what he would call power and authority for himself. No religion protects and promotes individual freedoms as does the Christian religion. Our freedoms come from God; they are God-given, not government-given. According to the Declaration of Independence, governments are designed to secure these rights—to protect them, punish the wicked, praise and promote the righteous, and protect our rights. Whenever there is a denial of God's Word, or when a government leaves God's Word, it will always leave its responsibility to protect, and therefore the loss of freedom is inevitable. Now hold 1 Kings and turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 3, verse 17: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." So wherever God is honored and obeyed,

there is liberty. True liberty comes from God and from obedience to God.

The Bible says, "The Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Consider the obverse of that truth: where the Spirit of the Lord is not, there is no liberty. Once a government apostatizes from the Lord and His Word, the ultimate end of that apostasy is tyranny and totalitarianism. It follows like night follows day. Thus when governments denigrate, deny, and denounce the Word of God and Biblical Christianity, they are headed for tyranny, despotism, and totalitarianism. They cannot help it. Likewise, when a government encourages, pushes, and endorses a pagan religion such as Islam, it is headed to the same end.

It is impossible to enslave a knowledgeable and obedient people. In order for a government to enslave anyone, it must first destroy biblical truth and obedience to the one true and living God, because obedience to the one true and living God and biblical truth always lead to personal freedom and limited government.

Spiritual Corruption Leads to Civil Corruption

Now see this in 1 Kings chapter 12. Jeroboam, the first king of Israel, abandons the worship of the one true and living God and establishes a pagan religion. Why does he establish a pagan religion? Why does he abandon the worship of God? Beginning in 1 Kings 12:25: "Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

"And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense."

Note the very first thing he does: he establishes a government-ordained religion. Through this pagan idolatrous religion he sought to control, subjugate, and dominate his people. Whenever we leave Biblical Christianity, the end result is always tyranny—the enslavement of the people. So he made two golden calves, saying, "These be your gods, O Israel," making it easy for them to obey and worship. Then he said, "It is too much for you to go to Jerusalem. You can just do this right here." Doubtless he made laws favoring his religion and penalties for those who would not engage in it. He ordained his own feast, out of a month he chose out of his own heart, and his own priests. He had a government-approved religion.

The Self-Interest of Tyrants

Now you have to ask yourself this question: why did he do that? Look at verses 26 and 27: "And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah." Isn't that amazing? Jeroboam didn't do one thing for the benefit or blessing of the people. He said, "If this people keeps going down to Jerusalem and worshipping the one true and living God correctly, pretty soon they're going to realize I'm not the lineage of David. And they're going to turn around and kill me and go back to Rehoboam." So what was Jeroboam concerned with? His power, his place, and his position. Tyrants are never concerned with their people. No tyrant is genuinely interested in his people. I could just about broaden that and say no politician is genuinely interested in his people. Politicians are interested in getting re-elected. The first

thing they want to do when they get into office is start raising money for their re-election campaign. They're not interested in us. And what really frosts my cake is when we contact our representatives and tell them exactly what we want, we get some kind of form letter back: "Thank you for contacting me and I appreciate your input, but I must vote my own conscience." We didn't send him up there to vote his conscience. We sent him up there to represent us. So most politicians care less about their own people as well. The same thing is true in the spiritual realm. Listen carefully: spiritual tyranny is no different from civil tyranny, it is still tyranny. If you will hold 1 Kings but go in your Bibles to John chapter 11. Lord willing in a few weeks I will amplify upon this passage. But look in John chapter 11, beginning with verse 46.

The Example of the Pharisees

In this passage Lazarus has been raised from the dead. Here is an undeniable miracle. Lazarus is not only walking around, there are multitudes that saw our Lord raise Lazarus from the dead. So they slip up and tell the Pharisees what has happened. Notice verse 46: "But some of them," that is some who saw the miracle, "some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we?"

"For this man doeth many miracles. And if we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation." Did you notice what was said? "If we let him thus alone, the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." If you paid close attention you will find out what they were really interested in: "the Romans will come and take away our place." In other words, we won't have any power, we won't have any authority. And then they said, "our nation." Obviously if they take away the nation they lose their power and authority too because they have no one to rule over, no one in which to tyrannize. Wow.

The Need for Repentance and Return to Truth

Spiritual corruption oftentimes drives us back to reality. I've often thought of how much things have changed in my lifetime. Things are not right; they're not even the way they used to be and they should be. We remember how we were taught, how we were raised, a Christian work ethic, being taught God's law. But none of that is going on today. Yet spiritual corruption sometimes will drive us back to reality and makes us remember and understand where we have come from and how far we have fallen. Then again it makes us yearn back for truth again, or as we used to say, "the truth and nothing but the truth."

But here's a sad thing. Unhappily, it is the older people that want to return for the truth because they're the ones that remember it most. Many of our young people have never heard truth, never believed truth, have no earthly idea what truth is. When we try to tell them, they kind of laugh. So actually the responsibility turns out to fall upon the heads of the old men, the gray heads and the silver beards, to say, "Look, this is truth."

This is what the Word of God teaches. This is how we were raised. I suppose one of the greatest sources of sorrow and anxiety for a true believer is to understand that our young people do not know truth, have never heard truth, and have never really been exposed to truth. We see our young people going everywhere—our grandchildren, our great-grandchildren, and our own children—and we wonder why. They've just never had truth. So it is true what the Communists say: "We don't care about the old folks, give us the young folks and in a generation nobody will remember you anyhow." If we don't start saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it," we are in trouble. So spiritual corruption. Secondly, civil corruption.

This is found in 1 Kings 11 and 12. Spiritual corruption always leads to civil corruption. You cannot have one without the other. The reason we have so many ungodly and reprobate politicians is because we have so many ungodly and apostate people and pastors alike. Like begets like. Remember the words of the unjust judge in Luke chapter 18: "Though I fear not God, nor regard man." Whenever there is a loss of the fear of God, there is no regard for man. Our civil rulers and politicians could care less about what is

going on because there is no fear of God and no regard for man. Turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel chapter 23. I want to begin reading with verse 1, and actually I'm going to give you verses 2 and 3. But I want you to see how many times David claims direct inspiration from God for one simple truth.

Here it is, 2 Samuel 23 verse 1: "Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me," that's one time. "And his word was in my tongue," that's twice. "The God of Israel said," that's three times. "The Rock of Israel spake to me," that's four times. Four times David is claiming direct inspiration from God for this one simple truth: "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." If you do not rule in the fear of God, you will have no regard for man. If you do not rule in the fear of God, anything goes.

What has happened and is happening in our land today is very simple. We have left God, His Word, and His truth, and therefore none of our rulers believe they are restrained by God or His law. So anything goes—murder your own babies, sell the body parts. I want you to understand that spiritual corruption always leads to civil corruption.

Civil Corruption: Solomon's Persecution of Jeroboam

Jeroboam was the first king of Israel, an excellent worker and a valiant man who actually worked for King Solomon. Yet Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, and his sole beef with Jeroboam was that God had chosen him to rule over Israel. Look in 1 Kings chapter 11, beginning with verse 26: "And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king. And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father. And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the

prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces."

Ahijah said to Jeroboam, "Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:) Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father. Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes: But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes."

Ahijah the Shilonite caught Jeroboam in the field, rent his new garment into twelve pieces, and said, "Pick up ten. I will give you ten tribes." Jeroboam worked for Solomon, so now Solomon sought to kill him because God said, "I'm going to give you ten tribes." In this instance Solomon is no different than King Saul. Saul tried to kill David because he knew that as long as David was alive, Jonathan his son would never be king. When Saul found out that Jonathan was protecting David, he said, "Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die."

Saul wanted David dead; Solomon wanted Jeroboam dead. Jeroboam had the audacity to fight back. He lifted up his hand against Solomon and said, "No, you're not going to treat me this way." That prompted Solomon's unrighteous persecution and prosecution. Tyrants do not like anyone that will oppose them, stand

up to them, or call their hand on anything. Jeroboam had to flee for his life.

Look at 1 Kings 11:40: "Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon." Whenever and wherever there is subterfuge, persecution, and prosecution for anyone that opposes spiritual and civil corruption, you may be assured that totalitarianism and tyranny are in control.

Modern Evidence of Tyranny

The evidence that America is even now a tyrannical police state is obvious to those that seek to oppose wicked, ungodly, and unconstitutional statutes. Regardless of one's position concerning the Constitution, our leaders have taken an oath to uphold it, and they should keep that oath until it is either repealed or replaced. It's just that simple. But is it not interesting that these men place their hand on the Bible and swear to God to support, uphold, and maintain the Constitution, then turn right around and do exactly the opposite? This shows us their word is nothing, their character is nothing; they are just as useless, worthless, and valueless as their word.

Do you remember when we were raised, we were taught a man's word is his bond? You give your word, you're responsible to keep it unless the providence of God hinders you. But today the word means absolutely nothing. When I was a boy, I saw my father and numerous other farmers do business on a handshake, and each one kept his word. Today, you better get an ironclad contract notarized, and that still doesn't mean anything. People will still cheat you, because their word is absolutely valueless and meaningless.

Let me show you what I'm talking about. There was a big row going on in Spokane, Washington, even last year, but it's still not settled. There were public remarks by the sheriff's deputy that Spokane needed MRAPs—Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, military vehicles—"because constitutionalists have guns and have stored up plenty of ammo." Similar attitudes have been displayed by a multitude of law enforcement officers throughout the country. Incidentally, the deputy and the deputies of Sheriff Ozzie

Knezovich were trained by the Southern Poverty Law Center out of Montgomery, Alabama. Is it any wonder, therefore, that the police agencies now are against anyone that stands for truth and righteousness, honesty and heritage? Anyone that holds to the same standards and morality of our Founding Fathers are now considered an enemy of the Empire.

In fact, and you can search this out on the internet yourself, our government now counts constitutionalists a greater threat than terrorists. How can someone wanting to preserve our history and heritage and do that which is right be labeled a greater terror than a terrorist? It's unbelievable. Civil corruption is always preceded by spiritual corruption; spiritual corruption always precedes civil corruption. They go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other. Whenever there is an apostasy in the spiritual realm, there is going to be an apostasy in the civil realm. There is a great book out called "Broken Churches, Broken Nations." It shows back in the 1800's how the churches began splitting and then everyone was saying it will not be long before our nation is split right down the middle. And of course that is true.

The Proper Foundation for Secession

So, I'm talking this morning about the motivation for secession. What is it that would actually motivate a people to secede, to withdraw from their government which they have been used to all of their lives? The first motivation for secession should be a motivation to return to biblical truth and to the God of the Bible who has revealed himself as Jesus Christ. Now I want to point out something that if this is not the foundation, nothing else is going to work. All else will fail. I could take you through the Bible and show you numerous examples where when people repented, turned back to God, God did indeed heal their nation and heal their government. Look at the revivals under Josiah and Hezekiah for instance, some of the greatest revivals that ever happened. And God did indeed heal their land. So there first of all should be a motivation to say, "We want to return to the God of the Bible and truth of God and live godly, holy, obedient lives."

Now, here secondly, secession is often motivated by political and civil corruption. I understand that there are people that have no understanding concerning the spiritual import and impact. They are just fed up with the civil and political corruption. But let me just tell you, you can't replace something with nothing. And it does you no good to replace humanism with humanism. So if you say, "Well, we're going to withdraw from this corrupt, wicked, civil government, and we're going to begin another civil government, but we're going to begin it on more benevolent human principles."

All you are doing is setting yourself up for failure. Humanism is humanism. It is not going to succeed. That is all there is to it. And if a people that do secede do not turn back to Biblical truth, their secession is going to prove absolutely fatal.

Now, I want to show you something. When God rent the kingdom from Rehoboam and gave the ten tribes to Jeroboam, it was an endeavor to give them a fresh and a new start. Let me show you. I want you to look in your Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 11 and let's begin reading there with verse 37. God is speaking to Jeroboam, and he said: "And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel. And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee. And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever." Listen to what he said to Jeroboam: "If you will just keep my commandments, if you will walk in my ways, if you will observe my statutes, I will build you a sure house."

"I will do for you exactly what I'm doing for David. I'll do it." And what did Jeroboam do? He turned around and made the two golden calves. He didn't believe God. If you look in 1 Kings chapter 14, beginning there with verse 7, you'll see what the end of Jeroboam was. 1 Kings chapter 14 verse 7: "Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel, And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my

commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes; But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back: Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone."

Conclusion: The Need for Repentance

So what is God saying? "Jeroboam, I gave you the opportunity to have a fresh new start. You rejected me. I'm gonna take you out the way dung is taken out. That's it." Change without repentance is worthless. It is not just simply that we need new rulers, new offices, new programs, or new economic principles. We need repentance. Many believers use 2 Chronicles 7:14 like a lucky rabbit's foot. You see all these signs: "Pray for America. Pray 2 Chronicles 7:14. Prayer only hope." But listen to what 2 Chronicles 7:14 says: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." We can pray and cry all we want, but if there is no turning from our wicked ways, God is not going to hear us. The motivation for secession is to begin afresh and anew with the Lord. Secession is not an effort to try some new humanistic endeavor or to start a utopian society. It is to be a movement to restore us to true obedience to God and His worship and His Word. Anything less than that will fail. You know what happened in 1 Kings chapter 11, I'll point it out in 1 Kings chapter 12.

The people finally got fed up with the tyranny and corruption. One of our prayers should be, "Lord, make us sick and give us our fill of what's going on." Just vomited up. Remember when the people cried for meat and God sent quail; while the meat was in their mouth God smote them. They got their stomach full of it. We need to get a stomach full of tyranny. It's like this treaty Obama has entered into with Iran, refusing to give details to the people or congressmen. What are you talking about?

One of these days, maybe the people of America will wake up, maybe God's people will awaken and say, "We've had our belly full, we want to go back and serve God the way we should." I could take care of 90% of our problems if I were President and allowed to have my way overnight. You say, "It's impossible." No, it's not. All you have to do is get rid of all that is wicked, wrong, ungodly, and wasteful, and start doing what is right. The problem is so many people make money from what is wicked, wrong, and ungodly, and they don't want that in this country. You say, "We need godly people in Washington." You can't get godly people in Washington, or if you get them there they can't do anything; their hands are tied. Maybe God in His grace will have mercy and everybody will get fed up and say, "Wow, we've had enough." That's what it will take: when God gets our backs against the wall and we can't go any further, maybe we'll say, "Lord, it's time that we repent."

And believe you. Lord willing next week, I'm going to finish this message and show you from Scripture the stages and means of secession, what can be done and how, based upon the Word of God. Let's pray. Father, we are thankful today for the Lord Jesus Christ and for His grace and mercy. We ask that you would give us strength to serve Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. Help us, Lord, how desperately we need Thee. How desperately I need Thee. Turn our hearts, quicken us that we may call upon Thy name. Grant us repentance and faith. Give us courage to stand for Thy truth and Thy word. We acknowledge and confess that Thou and Thou alone art the one true and living God, and besides Thee there is none other. Help us to love Thee, we pray in Christ's most holy and blessed name. Amen.

CHAPTER 2

A Model For Secession

Part Two of Two

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Kings 12:1-14 (KJV)

And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of King Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt,) that they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, “Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.” And he said unto them, “Depart yet for three days, then come again to me.” And the people departed. And King Rehoboam consulted with the old men that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, “How do ye advise that I may answer this people?” And they spake unto him, saying, “If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for

> ever." But he forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, which stood before him.
>
> And he said unto them, "What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?" And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, "Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, My father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. Now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, "Come to me again the third day." And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; and spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

"Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, 'What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David.' So Israel departed unto their tents. But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day."

Introduction and Review

In our first message last week, we talked about the motivation for secession. I gave you one point: the motivation for secession. Under that point, however, I pointed out that there were actually two parts to this: spiritual corruption and civil corruption. Spiritual corruption always precedes civil corruption. Or you could say it another way: civil corruption is the fruit and result of spiritual corruption.

You have to understand that when rulers do not fear the Lord, they will not follow His Word. One characteristic of a tyrant is that he refuses to be bound by God, His sovereignty, and His law. Let me give you a couple of Scriptures without your turning right now. In 1 Samuel chapter 15, verses 10 and 11, the Bible says concerning King Saul, “Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.” Here is King Saul, whom God allowed to be king, yet he turned his back upon God and refused to obey Him. Saul, of course, literally became a tyrant. God rejected Saul and took the kingdom away from him because Saul rejected God’s sovereign authority. He refused to obey God. Our Lord said very plainly, “He is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.”

The Nature of Tyranny

Now, you have to ask this question, what makes a man a tyrant? Stop and think about that. What makes a man a tyrant? Well, I do want you to hold 1 Kings 12, but I want you to turn to Psalm 2 because the answer is given to us very plainly in this scripture. Look in Psalm 2 beginning there with verse 1. If you want to know what really makes a man a tyrant, here it is. Psalm 2 verse 1. The question is asked, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"

So why is there so much turmoil? Why is there so much vanity? Why is there so much raging? Here is why. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." And in other words, here these rulers, these tyrants, are saying, we don't recognize God. We don't recognize his restraints. We don't recognize his

boundaries. We don't recognize his limitations. We don't recognize his sovereignty.

He has no right to tell us what we can do or what we cannot do. So let's break all of his bands and cast his cords away from us. Obviously a tyrant then is someone who basically denies the sovereignty of God and God's absolute authority and God's law word.

Now the same truth is stated in Hosea 5 and verse 10. When the Bible says, "The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water." So listen to this, the princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound, or the boundaries. They did not like the limitations that God placed upon them so they said, we will move the boundaries. We'll deny that God gave us these limitations and we'll basically do that which we want to do. So tyranny begins when God's sovereign law word is denied and man comes to believe that he has replaced God. And he's no longer bound by God's law, but now he is a law unto himself and he's able to make up his own law.

So I pointed this out last week. I'm going to say it again this week. It's impossible to have civil corruption without first having spiritual corruption. Civil corruption is always preceded by spiritual corruption. That's why in Luke 18, verse 4, that tyrant, that unjust judge said, "Though I fear not God, nor regard man." So, obviously the state that we're in today is because we've turned our back upon God and His law.

So, let's ask this question, what is the answer to tyranny? How do we escape a tyrannical government and escape it in a biblical manner? The truth of the matter is we cannot participate in such wickedness. We cannot support such a corrupt government.

Jehoshaphat, a godly man and king of Judah, got into serious trouble with God for helping Ahab, the reprobate king of Israel. When Jehoshaphat returned home, 2 Chronicles 19:2 says, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.” Jehoshaphat got into trouble by helping the ungodly and loving those who hated the Lord. Therefore, wrath was upon him.

Remember that Ephraim—the whole ten tribes, or northern kingdom—got into trouble with God for walking after the commandments, statutes, and laws of man. Hosea 5:11 says, “Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment,” because “he willingly walked after the commandment.” When man turned his back upon God—that is, when the king became a tyrant and began to institute his own law—those ten northern tribes willingly walked after the law of their king, rejecting God's law, and brought wrath upon themselves.

Judah did exactly the same thing. In 2 Kings 17:7-8, the Word of God says, “For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.” The children of Israel were walking in the laws and statutes of the heathen and of the ungodly, reprobate kings in the northern kingdom.

There were no godly kings in the northern kingdom, not one. They traded God's law for man's law, and God judged them. Verse 19 says, “Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.” God judged and destroyed the ten northern tribes because of their rebellion against Him, and Judah did exactly the same thing. Anytime a people willingly and voluntarily forsake God's law and follow man's law, it is idolatry.

The Means of Secession: Confrontation

It is the worship of man. It is the worship of the state. We must understand that government is not God. Government is a created institution, just like the family and the church. Consequently, it is answerable, responsible, and accountable to the God who ordained and established it. The same God who ordained civil government also placed limitations, restrictions, and boundaries upon it.

Confrontation

We have seen the motivation for secession. Now consider the means. What happens when a people secede? What are the steps? The means of secession are spelled out for us in 1 Kings chapter 12. First of all, in verses 1–3, there was confrontation.

"And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) that they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying."

This confrontation took place at Rehoboam's ascension to the throne. He was the son of Solomon and the grandson of David. Jeroboam was specifically called out of Egypt to confront Rehoboam. He was evidently a natural leader. First Kings 11:28 says, "And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph."

At one time Jeroboam worked for Solomon, until God chose him for the ten northern tribes. Solomon then persecuted him, and to save his life he fled into Egypt. Now Solomon is dead, Jeroboam has been called out of Egypt, and he is going to confront Rehoboam.

Confrontation is usually distasteful, but it is necessary. Unhappily, tyrants do not like confrontation. In all probability, what made this confrontation worse was that Rehoboam was just ascending to the throne. It should have been a time of merrymaking, happiness, and celebration; instead, it had suddenly become a very sober confrontation. Jeroboam stood before Rehoboam, saying, "There are some things we need to get straight."

Do not say, or think, that Jeroboam was merely one ticked-off individual: that he had been driven into Egypt, that Solomon had persecuted him, and that he was therefore mad and upset, wanting only to get things back. No, that is not it.

Look in verse 1: "And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king." Go to verse 3: "That they

sent and called him" (that is, Jeroboam), "and Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam." It was not just Jeroboam; all the elders of Israel had come. I understand that Rehoboam was ascending to the throne. But please understand this.

Solicitation

There is never an inappropriate time to discuss liberty, freedom, and responsibility with those who are ruling over you or who are about to rule over you. It is right and necessary to confront civil rulers. They are not gods. There was confrontation. Secondly, there was solicitation. In verse 4, they come in a solicitous mode. Jeroboam is not arrogant or demanding. He simply says, "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee." Israel wanted a benevolent ruler, someone who would ease the heavy burden Solomon had placed upon the people.

Understand that secession was not even in view at this time. All they wanted was to get things worked out. They wanted some relief, to enjoy their lives and families, and for Rehoboam to work with them. This solicitation rested upon a principle later enunciated in the Declaration of Independence: "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes. And accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

Rehoboam was ascending the throne. Solomon reigned forty years, David reigned forty years, and Saul reigned nearly forty years. For approximately 120 years they had a king, a monarch. They had not gone to Rehoboam and said, "We are changing things whether you like it or not." They had not said, "We're leaving." They said, "We just want to work with you, and we want you to work with us." Secession was not necessarily in their minds to begin with.

As much debate as there is today over the Constitution, and regardless of one's opinion concerning it, some believe the Constitution should never have been. Whether it should have been

or not is beside the point. It is here now. You say, "We want to change it." But you cannot change something with nothing.

I know that God's law is perfect, and God's law should be what we should go by. But until we can come to that stage, there is still the Constitution, which is supposed to be the supreme law of the land. The Constitution will not solve all of our problems, I understand that. But if our leaders simply kept their oath and observed and obeyed the Constitution, it would resolve a lot of our problems.

Economically, because we'd have silver and gold, we wouldn't have paper money or the Federal Reserve. There are some problems that could be resolved if they would simply obey. That is what these people wanted. They wanted Rehoboam to do what was right, work with them, and obey what was going on. So, there was a confrontation and a solicitation.

Consultation

Thirdly, there was consultation. Look in verses 5–11: “And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us. Thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

There was confrontation, solicitation, and now consultation. Understand this consultation, because it appears that Rehoboam will not be able to rule as he wishes. People are confronting and soliciting him: things are not right in this kingdom, and they need to be made right at the present time.

So what is the idea of the tyrant? Let me get some counsel so I can do whatever I can to neutralize the populace. I want to keep the natives calm.

He asked the old men what he should do. The old men gave him excellent advice. When I speak about neutralizing the populace, there is not an ounce worth of difference between Democrats and Republicans. They are both into tyranny and control. That is all. They could care less about their people.

So the consultation we usually receive from them is absolutely worthless. They run over us and do whatever they want to do. But here is the counsel. In verses 6 and 7, King Rehoboam consulted with the old men who had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, asking, “How do ye advise that I may answer this people?”

“And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.”

An interesting thing is that when he says, “if thou wilt be a servant unto this people,” the Hebrew word is ebed. The word ebed literally means a slave, a bondservant, or a manservant. Read verse 7 that way: “If thou wilt be a slave, or a bondservant unto this people this day, and wilt be a bondservant unto them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy bondservants for ever.”

This thing works both ways. If you want this people to serve you, you have to serve them. If you do not serve them, they are not going to serve you. Based upon this verse, the idea of a public servant is a biblical idea.

That is probably the reason so many today despise and hate that term and designation. They are not up there to be our servants; they are up there to be our masters. They hate the term public servant. Yet the old men gave the king excellent counsel and advice. What did

he do? He turned to the young men. They said, “You tell those people that your little finger is going to be thicker than your father’s loins. Where your father placed upon them a heavy yoke, you are going to make it heavier. Where they were chastened with whips by your father, you are going to chastise them with scorpions.”

In other words, you show them who is boss, who has the power, who has the authority, and who is king. Do you remember when Naboth refused to sell his garden to Ahab? He answered him, “God forbid it.” In other words, he was being obedient to God. God did forbid him to sell that land. What did Ahab do? He went and turned his face to the wall and cried like a baby.

Jezebel came in and said, “What is wrong with you? Aren’t you king in Israel? Get up and act like it. Show them your power. Take what you want.” That is exactly the attitude of a tyrant. Rehoboam was taking the counsel of the young men, not the old men, because he wanted to demonstrate that he was in control and in power: this was his kingship, and he could do as he pleased.

Alienation

Have you ever stopped to think how many churches, kingdoms, and nations have been destroyed because of pride, arrogance, and vanity? I could tell you illustration after illustration of churches that have split and gone down the road simply because of pride: “I am going to show you that I am in charge here. I am going to show you who runs this place.” It just destroys it. It is destroying our nation as well.

There was not only confrontation, solicitation, and consultation; there was also alienation. Look in verse 15: “Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.”

Now Rehoboam, in his pride and wickedness, alienated the children of Israel. Do you realize that is exactly what our politicians and civil rulers have done to us today? They have alienated us. They depend upon our forgetfulness. They think that although they are

corrupt, do unconstitutional, unbiblical, and ungodly things, we will forget their scandals by the next election.

But not everybody forgets. Consequently, they believe they can continue to violate, usurp, and confiscate, and all will be well. The American people as a whole are now alienated from their government, and rightly so. According to some of the latest polls, Congress and the federal government rank lower than a fungus. That is pretty bad.

All you have to do is observe our country. Dissatisfaction, dissent, and discord abound in every city, county, and state. Recent polls demonstrate that most Americans believe the biggest problem in this country is our government. It is like Ronald Reagan said: "Government is not the solution, government is the problem." And it is the problem. Our government today is vastly different from what it was when it was set up in 1787 and 1789.

Anyone with biblical sense or constitutional knowledge and character cannot help but be alienated from such a corrupt and ungodly system. Now you find out that Planned Parenthood is not only murdering babies and selling body parts, but that some babies are born whole and intact and the entire baby is sold, all funded by the federal government. How can you help not being alienated from such a corrupt, wicked government, especially when there is economic despair because of fraud in the economic system, besides the communism, Marxism, socialism, and everything else rampant today?

Separation

Yes, the people are alienated. Notice, if you would, in verses 16 and 17, that next there was separation. "So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them," the people answered the king, saying, "What portion have we in David?" "Neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel."

"Now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them." Alienation always leads to separation. It did in 1776 and in 1861. Amos 3:3 asks, "Can two walk

together, except they be agreed?" Obviously, they cannot. Therefore, alienation always leads to separation.

The full sense of that truth may be perceived when you consider the full-scale onslaught of divorce in this country. When husbands and wives are alienated, they separate. Look at churches. When there is alienation among the membership, between the pastor and the people, or between the people and the pastor, there is separation. C. C. Gowen wrote a wonderful book years ago titled Broken Churches, Broken Nations. He shows that when the churches broke up, the nation broke up.

The same is true in business. What happens to business partners when there is alienation between them? It always ends in separation. What is true in the family, in churches, and in business is also true in government. Governments are no exception. Alienation makes separation necessary.

When the South seceded from the North in 1860 and 1861, the paragraph most frequently quoted by Southern leaders from the Declaration of Independence was this: “When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them.” In other words, they were saying that separation is absolutely necessary.

When you understand that our government is no longer what it started out to be, and that it now violates every principle of right, denies and distorts justice, legislates immorality, persecutes and prosecutes for non-crimes, confiscates and taxes everything, takes from producers to give to non-producers, and subsidizes laziness, kinkiness, and immorality, one is not only alienated; he is ready to separate and depart. Israel seceded from the rule of Rehoboam and his government. Rehoboam wanted to be tyrannical and rule without the consent of the governed. Therefore, the people refused to be governed by Rehoboam.

It was exactly the same thing in 1776, when the colonists said, “No, we're not going to be ruled by George III, the tyrant.” It was the

same thing in 1860 and 1861. The South said, “No, we are not going to be ruled by Abraham Lincoln.” Abraham Lincoln violated the Constitution over and over.

Once again, the Southern leaders used that expression in the Declaration: “when in the course of human events it becomes necessary.” They believed it was absolutely necessary. So alienation then makes separation necessary.

Many people do not understand that there were secession movements in this country before the South seceded in 1860 and 1861. What many people do not realize is that, prior to 1860 and 1861, all of those secession movements were in the North. Did you know that the North threatened to secede over the Louisiana Purchase? They knew the warm-water ports down South would just about nullify all the ports in the North.

Historical Secession Movements

There was a secession movement over the War of 1812 because the Yankees did not like it; they were losing business because they could not have commerce with England. As early as 1844, the northern abolitionists were calling for secession. They wanted the North to secede from the South. William Lloyd Garrison, a rabid abolitionist, and others like him declared the Constitution to be a covenant with death and an agreement with Hell. William Lloyd Garrison, the editor of the Liberator, wrote, “no union with slaveholders,” May 31st, 1844. At the tenth anniversary of the American Anti-Slavery Society in New York City, May the 7th, it was decided by a vote of nearly three to one of the members present that the existing national compact should be instantly dissolved—that is, the Constitution; that secession from the government is a religious and political duty; and that the motto inscribed on the banner, freedom should be no union with slaveholders. By the way, there were slaves in the North in 1844.

Slavery was Constitutional until 1808, and it was to remain constitutional until those slaves died out. No more were to be imported. Never was there one slave brought over into this country under the Confederate battle flag. It is not a flag of slavery; it was not even a national flag. It was a battle flag, and it did not come into

existence until after July of 1861. There were no southern slave ships. No southern flag ever flew over a slave ship. All the slave ships were from the North, and they all flew the stars and stripes. That is a fact. You may not like it, but that is a fact.

The North did get rid of its slaves by selling them to the South, so it could then self-righteously and hypocritically say, “You need to release them.” The South wanted to get rid of the slaves because it was becoming vastly unprofitable, but it was not just going to kick them out. They said they had to be educated and trained, and the Lord said no: “No, you must do it our way or else.”

When we are talking about these things, you have to understand that these were people saying, “We want to secede,” and these were northerners, not Southerners. There were plenty of secession movements in the North before one ever began in the South in 1860 and 1861.

Rebellion vs. Resistance

Some may have trouble with verse 19. I do not think you should, but here it is: "So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day." Some may say, “There it is; it is called rebellion. Secession is rebellion.” No, it is not. You have to remember this: rebellion can only be against lawful authority. Where there is no lawful authority, it is not rebellion; it is merely resistance—resistance to tyranny and corruption. Rehoboam was a tyrant.

Understand that Benjamin Franklin placed on his personal seal, "rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." Thomas Jefferson liked that so well he had it placed on his seal also: "rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." Moreover, verse 15 says, "Wherefore the king hearkened not unto them; for the cause was from the LORD." The cause was from the Lord. When you return to verse 19 and see the word rebel there, the Hebrew word is pasha, which literally has the meaning of an expansion.

True, it is translated in our Bibles as transgressed, offend, revolt, or rebelled. But it is exactly the same word that is used in reference to the Moabites in 2 Kings. In 2 Kings 1:1, it says, "Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab." Again, 2 Kings 3:5

says, "But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel." What kind of king was Ahab? He was a tyrant, a reprobate, and a murderer. Would Moab, the country of Moab, be right to try to get back their own jurisdiction, their own liberty, and their own freedom from a tyrannical regime? Of course they would. The word is translated here as that, but it is not necessarily the same.

Look in verse 16. 1 Kings 12:16 says, “So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them,” the people answered the king, “What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David.” You take care of yourself; we’ll take care of ourselves. “So Israel departed unto their tents.” The Hebrew word departed simply means to walk away, to move away, to get away, or to fall away. They were not trying to tear down Rehoboam’s government. If he wanted to be a tyrant in Judah, he could be a tyrant in Judah; they were simply walking away from him. That is what secession is: a walking away.

By the way, tyrannical rulers often consider anything that would destroy or diminish their usurped or imaginary authority to be rebellion or treason. Do you remember Queen Athaliah? When her son, who was king, died, she did a very un-grandmotherly thing. She took all of her grandchildren and murdered them so she could be queen. Thankfully, Joash—not Joab, but Joash—was secretly taken away from her. She missed him, and he was hidden in the temple. When Jehoiada had raised him until he was seven years old, he had him anointed king over Israel.

When Athaliah heard the noise and the trumpet, she went to the temple. Seeing Joash being anointed king, she cried, “Treason! Treason!” Really? She was the traitor and the murderer. A lawful authority was anointing a lawful descendant of the king to be king, and she was crying treason.

You have to understand what is going on in our country today. Why are God-fearing, conservative, honest, hard-working citizens being labeled domestic terrorists? I recently saw a YouTube video of a man in his own yard hooking up his own boat. A police car pulled up. He began filming, and the officer ran his license plates, got out

with his gun drawn, and asked, “Why are you filming me? Are you some crazy constitutionalist?” The man had to keep saying, “You get away from here. I haven’t done anything wrong. Put that gun up, get back, and leave me alone.” Thankfully, the officer did. Do you realize why honest, godly, hardworking, conservative people are being called domestic terrorists?

Because they are a terrorist to the empire, the status quo, and the Marxist, Communist, Fascist state government—the federal government. States do not need permission to secede. States are the masters; the federal government is the servant. Secession is a lawful, legitimate means to prevent oppression, tyranny, and subjugation. Individuals do not need permission from the federal or state government to secede or withdraw themselves from wicked, corrupt oppression.

We have been commanded to do that by God. We do not need the state's permission. Proverbs 1:10-16 says, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down to the pit. We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood."

What is God saying? Do not join with evil or wickedness. Separate yourself. In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, He says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Personal Secession

These are plain passages: come out from among them. God has commanded us. Jeff Deist, a libertarian, gave a speech entitled "Secession Begins at Home." He showed examples of how one can personally and individually secede. First, secede from intellectual isolation: talk to like-minded friends, family, and neighbors, physically or virtually, to spread liberty and cultivate relationships and alliances. The state prefers us atomized, without a strong family structure or social network. Number two, secede from dependency.

Become as self-sufficient as possible with regard to food, water, fuel, cash, firearms, and physical security at home. Resist being reliant on government in the event of a natural disaster, bank crisis, or the like.

Third, secede from the mainstream media, which promotes the state in a million different ways. Ditch cable, CNN, and the major newspapers. Find your own sources of information in this internet age, taking advantage of a luxury previous generations did not enjoy. Next, secede from state control of your children by homeschooling or unschooling them. Secede from college by rejecting mainstream academia and its student loan trap.

Educate yourself using online learning platforms, obtaining technical credentials, or simply reading as much as you can. I don't know if you read this week of the 12-year-old girl in England who has a higher IQ than Einstein and Stephen Hawking. Her IQ was 162. She is 12 years old, and I can assure you she did not go to some institutional school because she is a gypsy. Her family travels in caravans. What did the kid do? She probably read all her life and had a mind that God gave her to retain everything she read. But this is what he's saying: read as much as you possibly can.

Next, secede from the U.S. dollar by owning physical precious metals, assets denominated in foreign currencies, and assets abroad. Secede from the federal tax and regulatory regimes by organizing your business and personal affairs to be as tax-efficient and unobtrusive as possible. Secede from the legal system by legally protecting your assets from rapacious lawsuits and probate courts as much as possible. Secede from the state health care racket by taking

control of your health and questioning medical orthodoxy. Secede from your state by moving to another with a better tax and regulatory environment, better homeschooling laws, better gun laws, or simply more liberty-minded people. Secede from political uncertainty in the United States by obtaining a second passport, or secede from the United States altogether by expatriating.

Most of all, secede from the mindset that government is all-powerful and too formidable an opponent to be overcome. The state is nothing more than Bastiat's great fiction or Murray's gang of thieves writ large. Let us not give it power to make us unhappy or pessimistic. Jeff is giving good counsel. We must return to independence. We must learn to think and act and take responsibility for ourselves as we obey God and bring our lives into conformity with His Word.

In his speech, he said, “Secession begins at home.” Secession begins first in our hearts and minds; then it begins at home. It is when we put into action that which is in our hearts and minds. We learn to become dependent upon the Lord Jesus Christ and independent of anything and everything else. So, yes, individuals may secede as far as they can by the grace of God.

Violence and Conclusion

Now, look at verse 18, 1 Kings 12:18. There was violence: “Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.” Note that the violence was initiated and instigated by the tyrant.

The reason for Adoram's death was simple. Rehoboam insisted that he had the right to collect taxes from a people who had seceded, withdrawn from him, and walked away from him—people who had not given him their consent to be governed by him. He had no just power over them, yet he was determined to collect taxes. The same was true of the South in 1861. The South had legally seceded from the North and begun a new government, yet Lincoln decided to collect taxes from a people over whom he had no power and who had not consented to be governed by him. But he insisted.

The spiritual and civil corruption, oppression, and tyranny prevalent today will ultimately drive many into secession. Thousands have already expatriated. Many have renounced their United States citizenship, left the country, and do not plan to return. They have fled.

Not everybody can flee or leave. I understand that. But it does mean that we can secede individually and personally as far as we can by the grace of God. Will we have to fight? My answer would be probably. I hope not, but probably. Regardless of whether we would have to fight physically, we would still have to fight mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and economically. There is always a fight.

Let me close with what the Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 6, verses 10 through 18: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Here is my question: If God did not intend for us to fight for our rights, liberties, and freedoms, and if God did not intend for us to fight for truth and righteousness, why did he give us all this armor? Put on the whole armor of God. If you look at Ephesians chapter 6, when you get through, you are decked out from head to toe. You are ready for battle.

Usually, when violence comes, it comes at the insistence of a tyrannical ruler and a tyrannical government. Does it stem from the

people? It is forced upon them. It was forced upon the South. It was forced upon the colonists in 1776.

Just remember this: secession begins in our hearts and our minds. We have to determine, as the Apostle Peter said in Acts chapter 5, “We ought to obey God rather than men.” Judge whether that is right or not. We ought to obey God rather than men. When it comes down to it, that is the issue: whether we obey God or whether we obey man. Let us pray.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I ask for your grace, mercy, goodness, and kindness. Teach us, build us up in the most holy faith. Help us understand these principles, apply them as far as we can, and live for thee. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Source Notes

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