

Voting Biblically (Exodus 18:13-26)

- I. Similarities and differences between ancient Israel under Moses and modern America
 - a. Both have established authorities determining the number and types of offices
 - i. Moses for Israel
 - ii. The Constitution for modern America
 - b. The Necessity for an Educated Population (v. 20)
- II. Qualifications for civil rulers
 - a. He shall be a citizen of the nation.
 - i. So that he will have the good of the nation at heart.
 1. He must be of the nation because he must love and have a vested interest in the nation.
 2. “You shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your own countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.” (Deut. 17:15)
 - ii. It is a curse to be ruled by foreigners (Deut. 28 “covenant curses”)
 - b. He shall be capable of carrying out his duties.
 - i. Mentally and physically able
 - ii. Gifted for the office
 - c. He shall be a God-fearer.
 - i. So that he doesn’t believe he is god.
 1. If he does not fear God, then what is to stop him from becoming a law unto himself?
 2. Historical examples
 - a. Pharaoh
 - b. Jezebel
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar
 - d. Nero Caesar
 - e. Hitler and Stalin
 3. Modern Examples
 - a. Pro-abortion
 - b. Pro-sexual perversion
 - ii. So that he judges rightly (i.e., by God’s law) and remains humble.
 - iii. “Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll [a]in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, [b]by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his [c]countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.” (Deut. 17:18-20)
 - d. He shall be a man of truth.
 - i. For the sake of public trust

- e. He shall hate dishonest gain.
 - i. He must not use his power for the worship of mammon.
 - ii. Ex.) Tax collectors in the NT.
 - iii. Modern ex.) How a bill REALLY becomes a law
- III. Proper application to our political context
 - a. Biblical qualifications apply across the board
 - b. Biblical qualifications apply in the primary but there is a duty to choose the best of two bad candidates in the general election (Ex. Cyrus is preferable to Jezebel)