

Message# 265_11-26-2023 - Who is Israel

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

I hope you had a great week in the Lord this past week and maybe even had some family in to take advantage of some time where the world kind of slows down a little bit.

I want to encourage you to make sure that you listen all the way to the end of my time on the radio this morning. I received a beautiful song from Joan in the Philippines last week and I want to play it for you. It's really really good. She has some software that enables her to sing songs with other people - I think even in other parts of the world - and she did a duet with a fellow and the song is just great. So, please stick around long enough to hear what she sent me.

Last week during the message, I referred to some young men who had expressed concerns about being "drafted" into an army - with the possibility of fighting for "jews" - for "jews" in the middle east. From my perspective of what a true Christian is - and with the theme of the message - Who is Israel? - I'm trying to make the point that when someone is numbered by man's little g "governments" - yes - they should have concerns about being "drafted into" - and not just their "government's" military. But when people are numbered with men's "governments" - they are essentially agreeing with everything that "government" does and represents.

We've talked about this many times. In the U.S., in the CONstitution, the opening phrase says "We the People of the United States, **We the People of the United States** in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

I've argued for many years - ever since I read Lysander Spooner's work called,

NO TREASON. No. VI. The Constitution of No Authority.

BY LYSANDER SPOONER. 1870

<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/36145/pg36145-images.html>

that the CONstitution, the document that created the “government” in the U.S. is only valid upon those individuals that declare it so. Listen to what Spooner said back in the 1800s. His argument is perfect, common sense.

The Constitution has no inherent authority or obligation. It has no authority or obligation at all, unless as a contract between man and man. And it does not so much as even purport to be a contract between persons now existing. [He was writing this 70 or 80 years since the CON was established.] It purports, at most, to be only a contract between persons living eighty years ago. And it can be supposed to have been a contract then only between persons who had already come to years of discretion, so as to be competent to make reasonable and obligatory contracts. Furthermore, we know, historically, that only a small portion even of the people then existing were consulted on the subject, or asked, or permitted to express either their consent or dissent in any formal manner. Those persons, if any, who did give their consent formally, are all dead now. Most of them have been dead forty, fifty, sixty, or seventy years. And the Constitution, so far as it was their contract, died with them. They had no natural power or right to make it obligatory upon their children. It is not only plainly impossible, in the nature of things, that they could bind their posterity, but they did not even attempt to bind them. That is to say, the instrument does not purport to be an agreement between any body but "the people" then existing; nor does it, either expressly or impliedly, assert any right, power, or disposition, on their part, to bind anybody but themselves. Let us see. Its language is:

We, the people of the United States (that is, the people then existing in the United States), in order to form a more perfect union, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

[10]It is plain, in the first place, that this language, as an agreement, purports to be only what it at most really was, viz., a contract between the people then existing; and, of necessity, binding, as a contract, only upon those then existing. In the second place, the language neither expresses nor implies that they had any intention or desire, nor that they imagined they had any right or power, to bind their "posterity" to live under it. It does not say that their "posterity" will, shall, or must live under it. It only says, in effect, that their hopes and motives in adopting it were that it might prove useful to their posterity, as well as to themselves, by promoting their union, safety, tranquility, liberty, etc.

Suppose an agreement were entered into, in this form:

We, the people of Boston, agree to maintain a fort on Governor's Island, to protect ourselves and our posterity against invasion.

This agreement, as an agreement, would clearly bind nobody but the people then existing. Secondly, it would assert no right, power, or disposition, on their part, to compel their "posterity" to maintain such a fort. It would only indicate that the supposed welfare of their posterity was one of the motives that induced the original parties to enter into the agreement.

When a man says he is building a house for himself and his posterity, he does not mean to be understood as saying that he has any thought of binding them, nor is it to be inferred that he is so foolish as to imagine that he has any right or power to bind them, to live in it. So far as they are concerned, he only means to be understood as saying that his hopes and motives, in building it, are that they, or at least some of them, may find it for their happiness to live in it.

*So when a man says he is planting a tree for himself and his posterity, he does not mean to be understood as saying that he has any thought of compelling them, nor is it to be inferred that **he is such a simpleton** [my emphasis added] as to imagine that he has any right or power to compel them, to eat the fruit. So far as they are concerned, he only means to say that his hopes and motives, in planting the tree, are that its fruit may be agreeable to them.*

*So it was with those who originally adopted the Constitution. Whatever may have been their personal intentions, the legal meaning of their language, so far as their "posterity" was concerned, simply was, that their hopes and motives, in entering into the agreement, were that it might prove useful and acceptable to their posterity;[11] that it might promote their union, safety, tranquility, and welfare; and that it might tend "to secure to them the blessings of liberty." The language does not assert nor at all imply, any right, power, or disposition, on the part of the original parties to the agreement, to compel their "posterity" to live under it. If they had intended to bind their posterity to live under it, they should have said that their object was, not "to secure to them the blessings of liberty," **but to make slaves of them; for if their "posterity" are bound to live under it, they are nothing less than the slaves of their foolish, tyrannical, and dead grandfathers.** [my emphasis added]*

It cannot be said that the Constitution formed "the people of the United States," for all time, into a corporation. It does not speak of "the people" as a corporation, but as individuals. A corporation does not describe itself as "we," nor as "people," nor as "ourselves." Nor does a corporation, in legal language, have any "posterity." It supposes itself to have, and speaks of itself as having, perpetual existence, as a single individuality.

Moreover, no body of men, existing at any one time, have the power to create a perpetual corporation. A corporation can become practically perpetual only by the voluntary accession of new members, as the old ones die off. But for this voluntary accession of new members, the corporation necessarily dies with the death of those who originally composed it.

Legally speaking, therefore, there is, in the Constitution, nothing that professes or attempts to bind the "posterity" of those who established it.

If, then, those who established the Constitution, had no power to bind, and did not attempt to bind, their posterity, the question arises, whether their posterity have bound themselves. If they have done so, they can have done so in only one or both of these two ways, viz., by voting, and paying taxes.

The document is really an excellent read as far as non-Biblical document is concerned. And, if you read on, you'll find that he basically says that the paying of taxes - he includes voting - which I don't think he should have - but the paying of taxes - he says - is extortion - if it isn't done voluntarily - and that could not be used against someone in their denial of the CON - even if they pay taxes. Anyway...

So how then, does it continue? This argument is plain and pure. Very simple. How does the CONstitution continue to be the "government" of the U.S.? Because men make choices - voluntarily or involuntarily - to keep it.

First of all. When "the people" - whether you are talking about just the 56 people that went into the CON CON - the CONstitutional CONvention - and created the document - then - the people that were living at that time accepted it - then the next generation of people that came along continued with it - then the next generation came along and continued with it - then the next generation came along and continued with it - when each of them made it their own - by practicing this:

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

When the people obey the “laws” - even the ones they say they claim to hate - they are acquiescing to the claims that men would make over them - that they have bound themselves to the “government” of the United States.

I've asked this many times before. For instance. Where in the Bible are Christians commanded by God - to get a “driver's license?” Or “marriage license” or “business license” or pay labor taxes, or pay for social security, etc., etc., etc. - about a million times over? Where does God command this? The answer is simple. Not only does He not command it, but Scriptures show that He specifically demands against those things. But they happen, because people - even people who claim to be against the CON - obey the “laws, statutes, treaties, etc.,” that were created as a result of the CON - therefore - that CON is CONsidered to be their “government” by choice. By their own choice. Nobody cares what you say. Nobody cares about how much people complain about “the government.” Words are cheap. When people obey the “laws, statutes and treaties” made in agreement thereof - that is what matters. It's not how much talk people say about how much they disagree with laws, statutes, policies, etc., if you obey them - you agree with and to them.

When people take the number - they take the “government” and make it their own.

I've heard people say, “If you don't vote, then you should not say anything about what the “government” does.” And just like every other thing in the world - believing or doing the opposite of what the world says or does - is probably closer to the truth in most instances.

If you vote - *that's* when you should say nothing. Voting says you agree with the system - you agree with the CON. So, if your vote isn't what you hoped for - according to the system - according to the way it works - you must accept the vote and live accordingly. If you vote - *that's* when you have nothing to say about the outcome.

If you have taken the number of “government” - and that “government” has decided to go to war with the Israelis - you need to shut up and obey - because that's what you

have chosen to do.

Now, if you are a true follower of Jesus Christ - hopefully - this would be a wake-up call and it would bring you to the knowledge of your sin - the sin of being numbered with the Godless. So, what do you do? The most beautiful thing there is in what Jesus Christ came to offer us in the New Covenant world.....repent, receive forgiveness, turn from your sin and today - right this minute - follow the Great Shepherd - follow Jesus Christ - out of the world - and into His Kingdom - where your NAME - not your number - is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

So just like Spooner said - it is such perfect sense - the CON was actually for a specific people at a specific time. It was never meant for - neither could it be meant for - future generations - unless those future generations make it their own.

But when a future generation comes to the knowledge of the truth - that the Kingdom Government of God is a present day reality - and God expects, demands, for everyone to be exclusive Citizens of His Government - not in word only - but in deed - we can - at any point in time of our lives - repent of our errors - our sins of ignorance - and Choose you this day. The words that God gave Joshua. Look at again for a minute this morning.

Turn to Joshua chapter 24. We've seen it so many times before. But look again. It's so important. It is so timely. These principles never become passe'. They are as valid today as they were back then - hundreds of years ago. This is one thing that continues to give me trust in the Word of God. It's that the principles never fade away into obscurity. Begin with verse 1, reading from the Septuagint:

1 And Joshua gathered all the tribe of Israel to Selo, and convoked their elders, and their officers, and their judges, and set them before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, Thus says the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers at first sojourned beyond the river, [even] Thara, the father of Abraam and the father of Nachor; and they served other gods. 3 And I took your father Abraam from the other side of the river, and I guided him through all the land, and I multiplied his seed; 4 and I gave to him Isaac, and to Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave to Esau mount Seir for him to inherit: and Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt, and became there a great and populous and mighty nation: and the Egyptians afflicted them. 5 And I smote Egypt with the wonders that I wrought among them. 6 And afterwards [God] brought out our fathers from Egypt, and ye entered into the Red Sea; and the Egyptians pursued after our fathers with chariots and horses into the Red

Sea. 7 And we cried aloud to the Lord; and he put a cloud and darkness between us and the Egyptians, and he brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen all that the Lord did in the land of Egypt; and ye were in the wilderness many days. 8 And he brought us into the land of the Amorites that dwelt beyond Jordan, and the Lord delivered them into our hands; and ye inherited their land, and utterly destroyed them from before you. 9 And Balac, king of Moab, son of Sepphor, rose up, and made war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam to curse us. 10 But the Lord thy God would not destroy thee; and he greatly blessed us, and rescued us out of their hands, and delivered them [to us]. 11 And ye crossed over Jordan, and came to Jericho; and the inhabitants of Jericho fought against us, the Amorite, and the Chananite, and the Pherezite, and the Evite, and the Jebusite, and the Chettite, and the Gergesite, and the Lord delivered them into our hands. 12 And he sent forth the hornet before you; and he drove them out from before you, [even] twelve kings of the Amorites, not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. 13 And he gave you a land on which ye did not labour, and cities which ye did not build, and ye were settled in them; and ye eat [of] vineyards and oliveyards which ye did not plant. 14 And now fear the Lord, and serve him in righteousness and justice; and remove the strange gods, which our fathers served beyond the river, and in Egypt; and serve the Lord. 15 But if it seem not good to you to serve the Lord, choose to yourselves this day whom ye will serve, whether the gods of your fathers that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, among whom ye dwell upon their land: but I and my house will serve the Lord, for he is holy. 16 And the people answered and said, Far be it from us to forsake the Lord, so as to serve other gods. 17 The Lord our God, he is God; he brought up us and our fathers from Egypt, and kept us in all the way wherein we walked, and among all the nations through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord cast out the Amorite, and all the nations that inhabited the land from before us: yea, we will serve the Lord, for he is our God. 19 And Joshua said to the people, Indeed ye will not be able to serve the Lord, for God is holy; and he being jealous will not forgive your sins and your transgressions. 20 Whensoever ye shall forsake the Lord and serve other gods, then he shall come upon you and afflict you, and consume you, because he has done you good. 21 And the people said to Joshua, Nay, but we will serve the Lord. 22 And Joshua said to the people, Ye [are] witnesses against yourselves, that ye have chosen the Lord to serve him. 23 And now take away the strange gods that are among you, and set your heart right toward the Lord God of Israel. 24 And the people said to Joshua, We will serve the Lord, and we will hearken to his voice. 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people on that day, and gave them a law and an

ordinance in Selo before the tabernacle of the God of Israel. 26 And he wrote these words in the book of the laws of God: and Joshua took a great stone, and set it up under the oak before the Lord.

Why the Law Book? Why was this written in the Law Book? This is what I've been trying to get people to see for almost 40 years now. When you see the word "serving" in the Bible - it means to obey - to render service.

The Bible is not talking about carving elephant tusk statues and putting them on your mantle and bowing down and worshipping them. It's talking about who you obey. How do you live your life? Do you live according to the commands and demands of men, or do you live according to the commands of God?

Listen to Webster's 1828 Dictionary for the definition of serve. It's long, but I want to read the whole thing. I'm going to try to anyway.

SERVE, verb transitive serv. [Latin servio. This verb is supposed to be from the noun servus, a servant or slave, and this from servo, to keep.]

1. To work for; to bestow the labor of body and mind in the employment of another. Jacob loved Rachel and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy youngest daughters. Genesis 29:15.

No man can serve two masters. Matthew 6:24.

2. To act as the minister of; to perform official duties to; as, a minister serves his prince. Had I served God as diligently as I have served the king, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs. Cardinal Woolsey.

3. To attend at command; to wait on.

A goddess among gods, ador'd and serv'd

By an'els numberless, thy daily train. Milton.

(I'm not sure if that's a typo or not [anbels].)

4. To obey servilely or meanly. be not to wealth a servant.

5. To supply with food; as, to be served in plate.

6. To be subservient or subordinate to.

*Bodies bright and greater should not serve
The less not bright. Milton.*

7. To perform the duties required in; as, the curate served two churches.

Listen to this one.

*8. To obey; to perform duties in the employment of; as, to serve the king or the country
in the army or navy.*

9. To be sufficient, or to promote; as, to serve one's turn, end or purpose.

10. To help by good offices; as, to serve one's country.

11. To comply with; to submit to.

*They think herein we serve the time, because thereby we either hold or seek
preferment. Hooker.*

12. To be sufficient for; to satisfy; to content.

*One half pint bottle serves them both to dine, And is at once their vinegar and wine.
Pope.*

13. To be in the place of any thing to one. A sofa serves the Turks for a seat and a couch.

*14. To treat; to requite; as, he served me ungratefully; he served me very ill; We say
also, he served me a trick, that is he deceived me, or practiced an artifice on me.*

Listen to this one. One of the definitions of serve from Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

*15. In Scripture and theology, to obey and worship; to act in conformity to the law of a
superior, and treat him with due reverence.*

*Fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and truth. As for me and my house, we will
serve the lord. Joshua 24:14. (What we've been reading. Listen to the definition again:
In Scripture and theology, to obey and worship; to act in conformity to the law of a
superior, and treat him with due reverence.*

16. In a bad sense, to obey; to yield compliance or act according to.

Serving divers lusts and treasures. Titus 3:1.

17. To worship; to render homage to; as, to serve idols or false gods.

One out of almost a hundred, he mentions idols or false gods.

18. To be a slave to; to be in bondage to.

*19. To serve one's self of, to use; to make use of; a Gallicism, [se servir de.]
I will serve myself of this concession. Chillingworth.*

20. To use; to manage; to apply. The guns are well served.

21. In seamen's language, to wind something round a rope to prevent friction.

*To serve up, to prepare and present in a dish; as, to serve up a sirloin of beef in plate;
figuratively, to prepare.*

*To serve in, as used by Shakespeare, for to bring in, as meat by an attendant, I have
never to be used in America.*

To serve out, to distribute in portions; as, to serve out provisions to soldiers.

*To serve a writ, to read it to the defendant; or to leave an attested copy at his usual
place of abode.*

*To serve an attachment, or writ of attachment, to levy it on the or goods by seizure; or
to seize.*

*To serve an execution, to levy it on lands, goods or person by seizure or taking
possession.*

To serve a warrant, to read it, and to seize the person against whom it is issued.

*In general, to serve a process, is to read it so as to give due notice to the party
concerned, or to leave an attested copy with him or his attorney, or at his usual place of
abode.*

*To serve an office, to discharge a public duty. [This phrase, I believe, is not used in
America. We say, a man serves in an office, that is, serves the public in an office.]*

SERVE, verb intransitive serv.

1. To be a servant or slave.

The Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve Isaiah 14:3.

2. To be employed in labor or or other business for another.

3. To be in subjection.

4. To wait; to attend; to perform domestic offices to another.

5. To perform duties, as in the army, navy or in any office. An officer serves five years in India, or under a particular commander. The late secretary of the colony, and afterwards state, of Connecticut, was annually appointed, and served in the office sixty years.

6. To answer; to accomplish the end.

She feared that all would not serve. Sidney.

7. To be sufficient for a purpose.

This little brand will serve to light your fire. Dryden.

8. To suit; to be convenient. Take this, and use it as occasion serves.

9. To conduce; to be of use.

Our victory only served to lead us on to other visionary prospects. Swift.

10. To officiate or minister; to do the honors of; as, to serve at a public dinner.

When the Bibles about serving other gods - it isn't talking about powerless, tiki gods in the huts of Africa. It is talking about obeying other men's laws - instead of the Laws of God. Why don't we know this? Why is this not as commonplace understanding as there is? It's because most people - including me - received training in their childhood from something called "church." "Church" consists of demons and devils and gods and goddesses - talking snakes - and speaking in tongues - dunking people in water - and saying incantations - lighting candles - and crossing their hearts - and beads and rituals - and all sorts of mystical, magical fantasies that are not based on fact and reality.

The rubber meets the road when you understand that serving other gods means obeying "governments" that are not God's - the God of the Bible - the God of Creation. The One Who repeatedly said - obey My Commandments, My Laws, My Statutes, My Ordinances. We're talking about laws. We're talking about the way we live. God's way or man's way.

Since "church" is the religious arm of the state - there must be a diversion. There must be an alternate world created - a spiritual world - a fantasy world - that is created for the purpose of making men think there is some sort of separation between obeying men's little g "governments" and obeying the Government of God. "As long as we don't have carved elephant tusks sitting on our mantles, and we aren't bowing down to them

and worshiping them - and we say the sound J-E-S-U-S every so often - then there's no way we are "serving other gods."

You want to know who Israel is? Who the Israel of God is? When in this chapter of Joshua when the people stood up and said, "We will serve the Lord." The Greek word for the people there the word is laos - and in some places in our Bibles it specifically refers to the believers in Israel. Not always all of Israel - but the believers in Israel.

2992 (laos) is the usual term for "the people of God" and thus typically used in the LXX (OT) [Septuagint] and the Gospels, for believing Israel (Jews).

One of the other places that this same Greek word is used in found in Matthew 2. Turn there for just a minute before we come back to Joshua 24 to finish there. Verse 1, Matthew 2:

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

[2] Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Judahites? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

[3] When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

[4] And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ [THE KING - not Jesus - Christ the King] should be born.

[5] And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

[6] And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come the Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

You want to know who Israel is? It's those believing Israelites who are allowing His rule over their lives. They are people who believe that the Governor came from Juda, was born as King, became the King and the King is ruling and reigning in their lives - right now. He's not a coming king. Not a king to come surrounded by more fairytale events and fairytale creatures like beasts and the Antichrist. He came in the first century, just like the Bible says in Matthew 2 - prophesied from Micah chapter 5 - fulfilled in Matthew chapter 2 in the first century.

The chosen people of God are people who have embraced Jesus Christ as the Ruler of

Israel that came from Bethlehem - born to be King.

Friends, there's just nothing clearer from the Bible. The people of God, the chosen people of God - are found ONLY in those people who have embraced Jesus Christ. It's all about Jesus. It's all about Jesus as Christ. Where you find people who say that the "jews" - people who do not embrace Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah King, where you find people who refuse to bow the knee to Jesus Christ - there's where you find antichrists. And the Bible says we are not to allow them in our houses, we are not to even say a Bless you when they sneeze.

For the life of me, I do not understand how someone can say that a people are God's Chosen - when those people refuse God's Son. That is one of the most incredible, unbelievable things that I've ever known of in my entire life. I got it as a little kid. It is nothing other than pure ignorance of the Word of God for someone to believe this pure nonsense that people who refuse Jesus are God's Chosen people. That is just plain ignorance.

27 And Joshua said to the people, Behold, this stone shall be among you for a witness, for it has heard all the words that have been spoken to it by the Lord; for he has spoken to you this day; and this [stone] shall be among you for a witness in the last days, whenever ye shall deal falsely with the Lord my God. 28 And Joshua dismissed the people, and they went every man to his place. 29 And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that lived as long as Joshua, and all that knew all the works of the Lord which he wrought for Israel. 30 And it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Naue the servant of the Lord died, [at the age] of a hundred and ten years. 31 And they buried him by the borders of his inheritance in Thamnasarach in the mount of Ephraim, northward of the mount of Gaas: there they put with him into the tomb in which they buried him, the knives of stone with which he circumcised the children of Israel in Galgala, when he brought them out of Egypt, as the Lord appointed them; and there they are to this day. 32 And the children of Israel brought up the bones of Joseph out of Egypt, and buried [them] in Sicima, in the portion of the land which Jacob bought of the Amorites who dwelt in Sicima for a hundred ewe-lambs; and he gave it to Joseph for a portion. 33 And it came to pass afterwards that Eleazar the high-priest the son of Aaron died, and was buried in Gabaar of Phinees his son, which he gave him in mount Ephraim. In that day the children of Israel took the ark of God, and carried it about among them; and Phinees exercised the priest's office in the room of Eleazar his father till he

died, and he was buried in his own place Gabaar: but the children of Israel departed every one to their place, and to their own city: and the children of Israel worshipped Astarte, and Astaroth, and the gods of the nations round about them; and the Lord delivered them into the hands of Eglom king of Moab and he ruled over them eighteen years.

Now this could never be used to talk about people who call themselves God's people - even "Christians" - in the U.S. The Old Covenant Israelites who did not follow the Laws of their parents who followed Joshua - they worshipped Astarte and Astaroth. U.S. citizens, of course, would never do anything like that. And especially their "government" that was created based on the Bible. I found this kind of interesting this week.

<https://wanderingwomanwondering.wordpress.com/2011/08/10/the-u-s-capitol-city-through-pagan-eyes/>

It's called *The U.S. Capitol City Through Pagan Eyes*.

In late July, I visited Washington, D.C. My first purpose there was to visit a friend from college but somewhere along the way, during the initial planning process, I encountered Athena and decided that my second purpose would be to seek her out in the art of the Polis. For those who do not know, many key federal buildings in Washington, D.C. were built in a neoclassical style, a return to ancient Greek and Roman (especially Roman) architectural and artistic conventions.

Naturally, I could not resist the opportunity to tour some key places in DC with my Pagan eye wide open (and take pictures to document the experience!). To be honest, I was more stimulated by the neoclassical architecture than I expected to be. Plus classical mythology references were everywhere, from the sculptures to the reliefs to the paintings! During my time in the nation's capitol city, I took in a few memorials, two Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Library of Congress, and the U.S. Capitol Building, but the Library and the Capitol were the coolest of the places I visited, in my Pagan opinion.

Images of the gods are all over those two buildings! The fountain outside of the Library of Congress features Poseidon-Neptune and the Waves. Inside the Library, at the entrance, are Athena-Minerva of War and of Peace. War is armed, peace of course is not. Those pieces belong to Athena-Minerva more so in name. Precious little of their iconography and even less of their bearing speak of her. With regard to their bearing in

particular, they are much more delicate and feminine than most popular classical depictions of Athena-Minerva. On the second floor are the eight Virtues who grace the four corners of the Great Hall. Many of them were vaguely reminiscent of Athena-Minerva from my perspective, particularly Courage, Fortitude, Industry, and Prudence. The resemblance was partially (and barely) borne out in their iconography (i.e., some weapons, spindle, and distaff) but also in what they stand for, the abstract ideas that they represent. Like War and Peace, the Virtues were very feminine, but then again, they are not named after Athena-Minerva so I cannot fault them for being less like her than I would have hoped. The full-color, absolutely gorgeous mosaic of Athena-Minerva complete with spear, shield, helmet, breastplate, owl, olive tree, laurel, and Nike-Victoria was the complete opposite of the other Athena-Minerva-like pieces. Not only does it bear her name but it is true to popular classical images of the goddess. It looked like it was taken straight from a wall in Pompeii (of course I say this as someone who is not at all a trained scholar on ancient Roman architecture and art). I stood in awe for at least five minutes, taking it all in.

The link to this is in the message notes. It has photos of all the things she is talking about in her writing.

My next stop was the U.S. Capitol Building. When I researched what to see in DC related to Athena-Minerva a week or so prior to my trip, most results were for sights in the Library of Congress, but the Statue of Freedom which tops the dome of the Capitol Building also has some Athena-Minerva influences. Really, any martial neoclassical female (but not necessarily feminine) figure will probably make the average Pagan think of Athena-Minerva, and the Statue of Freedom was no exception. The replica of the Statue of Freedom in the Capitol Building Visitor Center lobby offered an opportunity for closer inspection of her iconography. Although she is obviously an United States symbol (and some would argue a problematic one), her Athena-Minerva heritage is revealed by her helmet and shield, and in the fact that she is armed. Although the items themselves partially characterize classical images of Athena-Minerva, the details were altered for the Statue of Freedom to uniquely represent the United States of America (e.g., stripes on the shield representing the original states instead of the head of Medusa). Regardless, I saw Athena in the Statue of Freedom and so I purchased a couple of inexpensive postcards depicting the Statue.

I also took a guided tour of the Capitol Building, after studying the Statue of Freedom replica in the visitors' lobby. Most of the tour was interesting but did not raise my Pagan eyebrow. It was not until we visited the Rotunda and I looked up at the Capitol

Building's dome that my Pagan eyebrow nearly raised clean off my face. The Apotheosis of Washington.

Nuff said for those who have seen/read about it. For those that have not, let me elaborate. It is basically a romantic neoclassical depiction of Washington's imagined elevation to godly status elegantly rendered on the dome (which is just below the actual bronze Statue of Freedom that tops the building). In the painting, Washington is surrounded by the Greco-Roman gods. Athena-Minerva is present as a patroness of Science. She teaches and offers guidance to some of the greatest thinkers of that day. Poseidon-Neptune, Aphrodite-Venus, Hermes-Mercury, and Demeter-Ceres are also featured. Hephaistos-Vulcan even appears in the piece to represent Mechanics in the founding of the country. I actually did not see him while I was physically there in the Rotunda. It was not until I got home and examined the photo I took that I saw the head of another figure, did some research, and found out that it was Hephaistos-Vulcan. He and Athena-Minerva are depicted directly opposite one another; consequently, only one can be seen at a time, depending on where you are standing in the Rotunda. In addition to Athena-Minerva (and Hephaistos-Vulcan) in the Apotheosis, there is also a depiction of Athena-Minerva in the frieze just below the dome/Apotheosis painting. In that highly central room of the Capitol Building, Athena-Minerva is literally stacked on top of herself. She is reflected to some degree in the Statue of Freedom then depicted true to classical form in the Apotheosis decorating the inside of the dome and then again true to ancient form in the frieze just below that. As a Pagan in the Polis – the capitol city of the United States – I thought that was mighty cool!

As a Pagan in the Polis – the capitol city of the United States – I thought that was mighty cool! [my emphasis added]

In each depiction, Athena is framed as an important goddess of state, honored as an ancient patroness of the polis. She is also presented as a key intellectual and moral resource for the formation of a powerful, successful, and just state. I am not making claims about what the U.S. is or is not in reality, only what it aspired to be at the time Washington and others were laying plans for the capitol city. Whatever the reality may be, I will say that while walking through DC I was inspired by Athena's "presence" there, even if it was primarily iconographic. Specifically I was inspired by the high ideals, reason, and hard work of crafting/building that she embodies. Being in DC to honor her also helped me to see the glory in at least attempting to contribute one's best to a society/culture (which I understand as broader than one's city-state). The funk I have been in lately has made it hard for me to find value in the work of my hands, or in my

case the work of my mind, but both really are Athena's kind of work and the more principled and purposeful the work is, all the better. In a nutshell, my time in DC helped me to start seeing the value in my work again and the importance of contributing to something greater, whatever that may mean to the individual and her community. Glory to Athena! I give thanks to Polias (She of the City) and Oxyderkês (the Sharp-Sighted One) for the insights gained during my time in Washington, D.C. and to Ergane (the Worker) for helping me to regain my confidence and sense of meaning in my work.

So, this is the "government" that people who claim to be "Christians" - and I most certainly have that word in quotation marks - because true Christians would not be involved with such things. Churchians are. Churchians involve themselves in such things and I'm quite sure they have excuses and reasons why these things are perfectly acceptable. And of course they do. This is all acceptable because Jesus Christ has not yet come for them. Jesus is nothing but a king to come. A messiah to come - all written in lower case letters so as not to confuse the real King - capital K and the real Messiah - capital M - that came in the first century.

When Jesus Christ is King now - and has been since the first century - no true follower of God - can continue in these things. Followers of Christ who may have been duped by sins of ignorance - as soon as they realize the deception - they will get it - and they will come out of it. One way or another - they will come out of it. They will either come out voluntarily - or God will force them out through chastisement. That's what the Word of God says. God is going to have His people. One way or another.

So, again, for those who are concerned about being "drafted" - here's the thing. If you were not numbered by the Godless, wicked "government" called the U.S. - you wouldn't have anything to be concerned about. If you didn't have their number, you wouldn't be "drafted." You wouldn't even exist to them. This is not - should not be hard to understand. This should be a wake-up call to anyone who claims Christ. You must not be numbered by a Godless, antichrist "government." There should not be a number that represents your body listed in their "book of lives."

Become the people of God. The people of God are known to God by a name - not by a number. If you have taken a mark of a beast - if you are numbered by man's "government" - stop using the number. Stop it now. Christians are not to be numbered by man's "governments." I just can't say it enough - our Christian ancestors - those believers in the first century who came out of Rome - they came out of the worship of Athena and Minerva - Roman and Greek "gods and goddesses" - they refused to be

numbered by those “governments” - by those beasts. They refused to the point where some of them were beheaded because they would not take a number.

What's the big deal? It's just a number. What's the big deal?

Friends, it's not just a number. It is a mark. It is an identification mark that says you are a citizen of the world. It's not just a number. It is a really big deal. It's so important that our Christian ancestors were willing to die instead of taking the number.

As I say many times over, no one is losing their heads over refusing a number today. Why is it so difficult for people who say they lay claim to the All-Powerful, All-Conquering King of kings and Lord of lords - why is it so difficult to come up with the amount of trust needed to obey the principles of Scripture - that the first century saints had? It's easy - it's comparatively easy today.

Who are the people of God? Who are the Chosen of God? In closing, once again, turn to II Corinthians chapter 6. Read beginning in verse 14.

[14] Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

[15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

[16] 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.

[17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

[18] And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.