

# Kingdom Report

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## Part 5 : Discipling a Nation

Does the Church have a scriptural mandate from God to disciple a nation? Or is this just bad "Dominion" theology and "replacement theology". Answer, yes we do but we neither believe it, teach it or practice it which is why after the elections of May 29th we will 5 more years of national social, political and economic collapse.

I am always in favour of Christians mobilizing for political action and representing in parliament. Some time ago a good Christian friend of mine asked me to be part of his 50 group he is recruiting for a new Christian political action initiative preparing for the coming South African elections. I won't name names but I must tell you I liked these folks, real fiery charismatic leadership. As told by my friend "if we can mobilize 12 million Christians we can be a majority in Parliament and change the constitution". The idea was each one over the coming time period recruit 50 friends who in turn recruit 50 friends etc etc. I thought great count me in as one of your 50 and we were supposed last October to vote for who our representatives should be in on the electoral list. Wow 12 million? Hey you know we charismatics....."faith it till you make it!". I got no problem with big dreams and bold leadership. In fact I love it.

Well sadly as all new parties have found out if you can't get at least 14,000 signatures on paper as support you don't get to be on the ballot. Which is fair enough. I still have some good choices to vote for.

However here is the problem I wish to address. Recently the leaders of this group put out a Youtube explaining why they must not be confused with "kingdom now" theology because that is "dominionism" and "dominionism" is all about Christians wanting to "rule over others" and impose their views and besides all that it is "replacement theology" replacing Israel with the church etc etc.

I thought oh no, not again. We're not about "ruling over others"? I thought the point of the movement was replacing the present government and yes, "ruling over others" because that is what politics and government is all about? We vote our people in and their people out so our people can rule and theirs not.

But no the second video that came out was now teaching about "end times" Armageddon, Israel, and so forth. Ok fine that is your eschatology. I have mine and we both love Jesus. However what you are really telling me is that there is no hope for national Biblical reformation of the nation because it is the end times, Antichrist and world government is our future, and we need to leave all this Kingdom stuff to Israel while we wait for the rapture to escape this failing world system.

So what was for me once a very promising start to Christian political action has now just devolved into more talk and meetings and "prophecy revelations" because that is what we charismatics are good at...talk and meetings.

So in this very limited blog allow me to at least give you a small foundation teaching from scripture on why we have not only a scriptural mandate to disciple actual nations but we have a policy roadmap as to what needs to be done.

Here is discipling basics: God has created 3 governing authority institutions....

- 1) The family
- 2) The Church
- 3) National governments and rulers.

The family is ordained of God to make children and disciple them into maturity  
The Church is ordained by God to bring sinners to repentance and disciple them into Christ like character.

Governments are given defined borders and powers by God to establish law and order among people and ensure a national foundation for economic and population growth.

Each authority institution must follow the instructions that Jesus gave to His disciple's upon departing earth "disciple, teaching them all things which I commanded you".

What is undisputed is that we know parents must teach children all things Christ has told us in scripture.

We know church elders and leadership must teach all congregants what Christ taught them.

But here is the dispute and the problem.....

"do we believe that Christ gave us teaching and commandments whereby we must disciple national governments?"

Now some honest assessments of how are we doing on the discipleship front on No 1 and No 2....

Family child discipling: You will know how good we are there by the behavior of the children our parents pass onto our school systems. Answer: Our schools are mostly in chaos. There are gangs, teen pregnancies, contempt for teachers, rowdiness, laziness all rampant combined with the lowest possible passing bar of 30% gets you a pass. The vast majority of our children are basically uneducated, ill-disciplined and unfit for work in a modern economy. Far too many come from dysfunctional families with absentee fathers and substance abuse and physical abuse. So much for a majority Christian nation

What about Institution 2, The Church and its discipling process....

You will note that although Jesus preached to crowds He spent most of His time discipling a small group of individuals. I will make two comments and leave it at that:

- I have spent decades in from a young age in charismatic evangelical churches trying to be an active member where I can. In all those decades and all those churches I have never once had my church leader take me aside, spend time with me to find out how

are you doing, what are you struggling with, what is the Lord saying in your life. Never. And I think you know what I am talking about.

Point 2: Here is what Ligonier ministries came up with after an exhaustive research on the evangelicals in the American church, what do they believe and have they been disciplined:

- 31% say science disproves the Bible.
- 33% say gender is a choice
- 38% say Jesus was not God
- 62% say God accepts all religions
- 75% say God first created Jesus

That is the result when church growth is about bigger meetings more people, better media, more entertainment. And no self discipline to actually study and I mean study the Word of God and that means study and discuss and ask questions and keep at it until a disciple not only knows the Word of God but can teach others.

Now what about issue 3 : The Institution of State and Government....can it be disciplined?

Point 1 God ordained nations and government and gave them boundaries and authority and as such God holds governments and nations responsible for their actions or no actions. That is why throughout the Bible we God's prophets sent to nations and kings and authorities to warn them, to counsel them.

I will quote two scriptures to establish the point.....

God creates nations....

**Act 17:26 and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation;**

**Act 17:27 that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us:**

God ordains rulers with responsibility....

**Rom 13:1 Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God.**

**Rom 13:2 Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgment.**

**Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same:**

**Rom 13:4 for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil.**

**Rom 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake.**

**Rom 13:6 For this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God's service, attending continually upon this very thing.**

But when a government is not the source of praise for those who do good but instead is the source of evil and iniquity and in fact rewards those who steal and corrupt then it is time for a new government.

If as scripture says that government officers are ministers of God but they don't act like it and we have to pay tribute (taxes) to them then is it not time to put people in power who consciously and publicly state they are Christians, they are servants of God, ministers of God accountable to not only to the voters and citizens of the nation but hold themselves accountable to God who is the greater authority?

Oh no say my Dispensationalist brethren, impossible, that is Dominionism, Christians who want to "rule over others"!

But what does Jesus say about all this? To that I am going to give you a true translation of Matthew 28: 18-20. Notice I said a true translation because here is the common "interpretation" of this scripture as modern day Bibles read.....

***Mat 28:18 And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.***

***Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:***

***Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.***

Now to be clear I am fine if you want to read that the way it is written in most Bibles. Go in all the world and make disciples of all people and baptize them..... That is a good encouragement for the church to get on with evangelism of the lost.

However I want to instead dig into a bit of my old college Greek classes and translate what is actually in the Greek text of the Bible.....

In the Greek there is no "make" as in "go make disciples" Here "make" would be the verb and the object of the verb is the noun "disciples".

However the original Greek "disciple" is the verb "matheteuo" based on the noun "matheteis". It is also a verb in the aorist tense and the noun is in the "accusative" not the "generative" which means you cannot use "of" so the proper translation should be....

**"Go ye therefore and disciple all nations....." with what? with what teaching?**

Which of course then asks the question but where did Jesus teach us to "observe all things which I have commanded you" about how to run a nation, or teach us how to prosper a nation or make a nation great and a blessing to all people? I know with what teaching of Jesus to disciple a family and a church....but where is His teaching to observe about how a nation and an economy is meant to operate?

Answer: Who did you think came down from heaven in power and glory on Mount Sinai in the sight of all Israel and gave Moses and Israel a detailed outline about how He wanted to have them run their new nation?

It was Jesus or as He was then known "I Am". Israel became the template for discipling a nation. But you cannot just talk about one nation of Israel.

Jesus spoke to both Abraham and Jacob and made His plan and intention clear for the future....there to be a multitude of Israel's in the world...yes that is right!

Jesus told Abraham "You will be the father of many nations" (Gen, 17 : 4)

He told Sarah nations would come from her... (Gen 17: 16)

He told Jacob many nations would come from him (Gen. 35:11)

And He said that those nations would consist of such great numbers as the dust of the ground and they would spread all over the earth to the north, south, east and west (Gen 28:14)

That is right my Christian Zionist friends....a multitude of Israel nations composed of all nations tongues and tribes who have been discipled into new Israel nations "sheep nations"...not just a small number of Jews in a tiny strip of land in Palestine.

In fact Paul tells us in Romans 4;13 that as Abraham's seed our Promised Land inheritance is all the world! If we are willing to disciple the nations.

And as for a national economic program the same Jesus who revealed His laws to Moses and Israel at Sinai gave them detailed instructions on an economic program for the nation that would result in eliminating poverty in the land and make all families prosperous and debt free.

Thousands of years before the ANC formulated in 1955 their "Freedom Charter" Moses already had the blueprints for a national economic prosperity program. It was the world's first "Economic Freedom Charter", But we have never bothered to implement it. Instead we voted for the ANC to implement theirs.

Jesus called it the Jubilee program. The first message that Jesus preached when He started His ministry on earth was Luke 4:18-19...."Good news to the poor.....proclaim and teach and preach the Jubilee year of the Lord"

That was salvation for the individual and national prosperity for the nation. But that would require you to not only make disciples of individuals but it would require you to teach a nation all that Jesus taught about how to run a nation and its economy when He taught Israel on Mount Sinai. But we cannot do that because that would be "dominionism". However teaching Mosaic tithing is definitely still ok.

Nobody has ever tried it. Israel has never tried it. No Church movement has ever touched it. That is why 7 years after 22 April 2017 when a million Christians gathered outside Bloemfontein to repent and pray to the Lord to heal our land, we are worse off now than ever.

We have not turned away from our "wicked ways" of how you govern a nation or how you establish your economy according to the ways of the Lord. And that is because

nobody in evangelical charismatic circles I know of believe you can disciple a nation when it is obvious that it is the end times, Antichrist is going to take over the world and we Christians get to retreat to heaven so that Israel can bring in the Kingdom on earth. Anything else is the dreaded "dominionism" coupled with "replacement theology". So carry on with talk and prayer meetings and wait for Jesus to return.

I reject that but I also know the Church is not ready with any discipling program for a nation. Israel had the same problem. They always wanted to be like the nations around them. So the Lord would allow their enemies to take them into bondage and enslave them into poverty.

2024 is going to be tough year when things built on sand will not withstand the storms to come. In preparation here at Kingdom Vision we will continue to preach and teach the gospel of the Kingdom and formulate a teaching and strategy for discipling our nation.