

A detailed painting of a church interior. A priest in a white cassock stands at a wooden pulpit, gesturing with his right hand as if speaking. The congregation, consisting of men and women in 17th or 18th-century attire, is seated in rows of dark wooden pews. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from a window in the background, creating a solemn atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Why the Pulpit Must Remain Free From Government Control

By Dr. Andy Woods

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1. An Old Testament Pattern
2. An American Analogy
3. Points of Application



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Israel's Judgments

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C.
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C.
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C.
(significance of Gen 49:10)



Divided Kingdom

Good and Bad Kings

- North-19 kings (all bad)
- South-20 kings (8 good)

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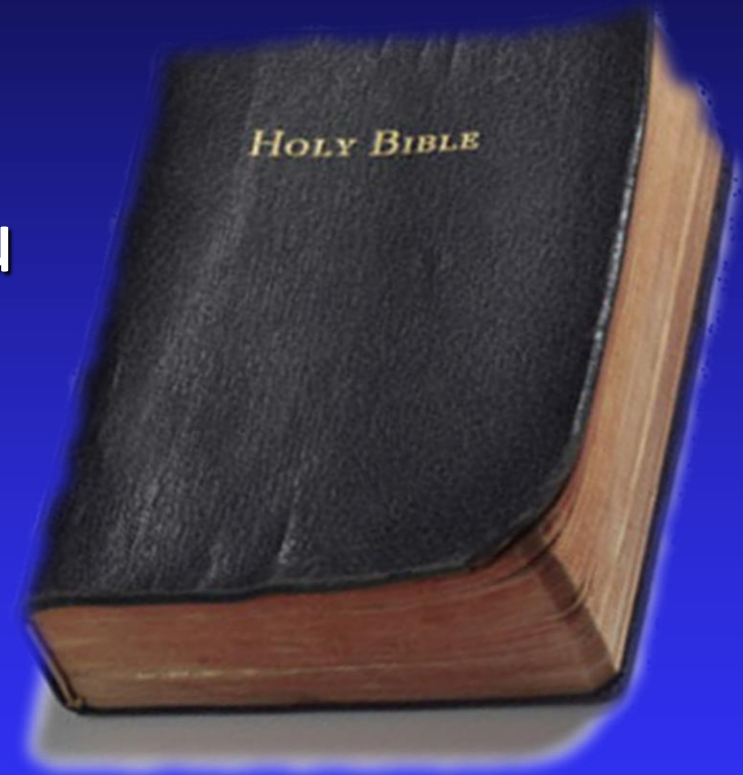
2. An American Analogy

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Founders' Sources

- 34% Bible
- 8.3% Baron Montesquieu
- 7.9% William Blackstone
- 2.9% John Locke



Donald S. Lutz, *The Origins of American Constitutionalism* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 141.

Declaration of Independence



“the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,”



“we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal,”



“they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,”



“appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions,”



“with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.”

Lord Acton



“All power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

“I urge this Congress to pursue a bipartisan, market-based solution to climate change...But if Congress won't act soon to protect future generations, I will. I will direct my cabinet to come up with executive actions we can take, now and in the future, to reduce pollution, prepare our communities for the consequences of climate change, and speed the transition to more sustainable sources of energy.”.

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/state-of-the-union-2013-the-presidents-remarks-on-energy>





Speech by Attorney General Janet Reno, Newark, New Jersey, May 5, 1995. Quoted in James Bovard, "Waco Must Get a Hearing," *Wall Street Journal*, May 15, 1995.

“You are part of a government that has given its people more freedom...than any other government in the history of the world.”

- “Jack Phillips is a baker who declined to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because his Christian belief is that marriage exists only between a man and woman. Now a Colorado judge has ordered him to bake cakes for same-sex marriages, and if Phillips refuses, he could go to jail.”

Ken Klukowski, “Baker Faces Prison for Refusing to Bake Same-Sex Wedding Cake,” online: <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/12/12/Christian-Baker-Willing-to-Go-to-Jail-for-Declining-Gay-Wedding-Cake>, 12 December 2013, accessed 16 May 2014.

Christian Persecution in a Post-Christian America

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So What? Three Points of Application!



- Gain knowledge (Hosea 4:6)
- Speak up on behalf of your God-given rights (1 Cor. 4:2)
- Use your God-given rights to advance the cause of the Gospel (Acts 16:35-40)



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Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”



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Conclusion

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