

How Would Jesus Vote for PRESIDENT?

Christ's Message was concerned with the government of nations. Christians are those who follow Christ. Here's what He would do.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THE issue of survival of the nation falls squarely on the shoulders of the president.

World war now threatens to explode. Frightful atomic war. War that means annihilation of civilization. America this minute is in grave danger. The issue is a matter of government!

Christ Was Interested in GOVERNMENT

Few realize it, because they do not hear it today, but the GOSPEL OF CHRIST—the Gospel Jesus brought from God and preached—was a message about *government!*

Yes, Jesus was interested in government. His Message was about a government to RULE THE WORLD, and bring us **WORLD PEACE!**

What would Jesus Christ do if He were here as a native-born American?

Would He vote to keep the present administration at the helm in this world-crisis?

Many of you undoubtedly have read the famous book, "In His Steps," by Dr. Charles M. Sheldon. It has been one of the all-time best-sellers. It is the story of an entire congregation which set out to do, in all circumstances daily, just as Jesus would do—to "follow His steps," as we are admonished by Peter. My only criticism of the book is that its characters, like most people who think they follow Jesus, acted as they *supposed* Jesus would act instead of studying the Bible to find out how He did act.

The Apostle Paul said: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*" (Gal. 2:20). He admonished, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). *A person is not really a Christian unless he follows Christ—acts as Christ would act—unless Christ is living His life in him.*

What would Jesus do in this crucial election?

To understand what Jesus would do we must take a quick flash-back of the governments of this world from its foundation until now. This is necessary for a true perspective. We are prone to view politics, government, and world events from the standpoint of this present world.

How It All Started

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). In rulership over this earth God sent an archangel who sealed up the sum-total of perfection, wisdom, and beauty. His throne was in Eden. He was ruler over a peaceful world populated by beings superior to humans—spirit beings called angels (Ezek. 28:12-15).

But as this brilliant shining "Star of the Dawn"—Lucifer—contemplated his glory, pride lifted him up, ambition seized him, and suddenly he became dissatisfied with a rulership limited to one single planet. He became jealous of God, set his heart to rival the Eternal Creator Himself, and left this planet in a war of conquest, in which a third of his angels followed him, attempting to conquer and rule the universe (Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:4).

But he was cast back down to earth in defeat, disqualified even as earth ruler, *tho not to be dethroned until a successor is both qualified and inaugurated in office.*

Just as the sins of the antediluvian world brought physical destruction to the earth by a flood; just as the fornication of Sodom and Gomorrah brought physical destruction and chaos to those cities by fire; just as the sins of the present evil world have doomed it to physical destruction once again by fire, so the sins of the angels caused the face of the earth to suffer great violence, and it *became* chaotic, in confusion, waste and empy (Gen. 1:2).

First Chance at World Rule

Then in six days God Almighty brought order out of chaos, created the present vegetable and animal life, and created upon earth a new race, the race of human mortals. Adam was given rule over the lower species—animals. Lucifer, an archangel, had been given rule over angels. But, while man was made a little lower in status than angels, he was made in the image of God with possibilities, thru conversion, of being born of God, and *changed* into immortal spirit beings, higher in order than angels.

In the Garden of Eden was the tree of Life—symbolic of the Holy Spirit of God Himself, by which Adam could have been raised to this higher immortal and divine level.

First, Adam was given opportunity to qualify as WORLD RULER. He could have become successor to the former Lucifer, now re-named Satan (*meaning Adversary, Rival, Aggressor*). Adam was put to the test to determine whether he would obey God and prove able to RULE with God's Laws.

In the fateful test with Satan, Adam disobeyed God, *accepted the rule of Satan over him—yielded to human pride, lust and greed.* Thus he placed himself and his children under the rule of Satan. He failed to overthrow Satan. He failed to prove he could obey God and carry out GOD'S government over those God should have placed under him.

Had Adam obeyed God and proved able to defeat Satan in this test, he could have partaken of the "Tree of LIFE"—he would have been begotten of GOD, later BORN of God, *changed* from mortal human to immortal and divine God, of the very family—the KINGDOM—of GOD! All earth's mortals, as his children, would have been under his rule. He would have become world ruler forever!

But Adam placed himself and his children UNDER THE RULE OF SATAN.

Adam was driven from the Garden of Eden lest he take of the tree of life, and gain immortality (Gen. 3:22). Thus he never received immortality, which is the gift of God by and thru His Holy Spirit.

Satan thus retained his rulership, thru invisible sway of influence, temptation, and deception, over the world.

How Our Present System Started

Just how Satan manipulated human mortals in the ways of government on earth during the first 1600 or 1700 years, there is no historic record. We know merely that with very few exceptions humans under Satan's invisible sway followed the course of human passions, the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and God destroyed all but eight souls by the Flood.

Noah and his descendents should have learned their lesson, but they didn't. Satan found in one of the great-grandsons of Noah, Nimrod, the grandson of Ham, a very able and powerful man who could be "used" politically. Thru Satan's influence, instilling great ambition thru greed and pride, this Nimrod organized the people into a system of human government, by which man ruled over man contrary to the principles established by God. Such government never could be good or bring blessings to humanity, but the Eternal purposed to permit man to learn that lesson by hard experience. We are learning it still, and haven't learned it yet.

Now notice how the present world's society became organized.

Nimrod organized the present world's first government—the city of BABYLON. Later he organized Nineveh and other cities. He instituted the system of regimentation, whereby one or a few at the top, by directing their efforts, profit from the sweat and labor of others.

Thus the BABYLONISH system of government was started. Soon there were many cities, each ruled by a king. Then an ambitious king, swayed by Satan's philosophy, seeking more worlds to conquer, organized a portion of his manpower into a fighting force and by aggression ruled over adjoining cities. Thus nations were born, and then Empires.

This BABYLONISH principle of government, intertwined with economic manipulation, has ruled the world ever

since. It has ruled under various forms—whether called oligarchy, monarchy, dictatorship, autocracy, democracy, communism or nazism—but it's the same old BABYLONISH PRINCIPLE under slightly different modes of administration.

And this is the origin of what we call CIVILIZATION. Its forms of administration have undergone change in the constant struggle and turmoil—in the rise and fall of empires, of cultures, of rival modes of political, economic, religious, or social administration. But its basic principle has remained the same—the principle of competition and strife, based upon greed and vanity.

Regardless of the form in which it appears here or there, it is a system based upon exploitation of the people, aggression, regimentation, delusion and deception. And the entire system is founded on the idea of huddling people together in crowded cities.

Since it is the system of strife and competition, each of the four phases of this civilization—political, economic, religious, and social—has striven constantly to dominate and rule. In ancient Rome the politicians ruled over the Church, Business, and Society. Then after 554 A.D., the Church ruled over the State, Business, and Society. In America, where we are supposed to rule ourselves, it has been a constant struggle for dominance between Big Business and the politicians. In Russia today a small group of godless atheistic Marxists have set up a political Dictatorship manipulated by stirring up class hatreds, inducing the laboring class to feel downtrodden enough to put in the saddle this Dictatorship pretending to rule for the benefit of this one class.

But regardless of the particular form of administration, this CIVILIZATION which holds the entire world in its organized grip today is the same old BABYLONISH SYSTEM started at the original BABYLON by Nimrod!

Babylon means CONFUSION. Competition and strife have produced confusion in the world. And God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33).

Should Christians Strive to Make This a BETTER WORLD?

Now we come to the reason for needing a true perspective.

Most churchmen today, viewing everything from the perspective of THIS WORLD TODAY, blindly assume this is God's world. They see certain forces of evil in it, and these they feel they must oppose. They see the Christian duty to be that of working to make this a better world.

That concept is a wrong viewpoint altogether.

This is not a world of God's making. This is SATAN'S world! Satan is the invisible god of this world. He is the author of its organization, its basic philosophies, its systems of government, business, society—yes, AND RELIGIONS!

This thing we boast of as CIVILIZATION is, in actual fact, Satan's handiwork, not God's! Strange as it may seem, that is true!

All nations—not just the heathen powers, but all nations, including ours, are DECEIVED, swayed, led, by Satan (Rev. 12:9; 18:3; 20:2-3). The Bible speaks of this world as "this present EVIL WORLD" (Gal. 1:4).

Why Christ Came!

Into such a world, in His own due time, God sent forth His own Son, born of the human virgin Mary.

WHY did Jesus come? To get into politics, to strive against the forces of evil in this world, to make this a better world?

WHAT was His Message? Certainly NOT a Gospel merely about Himself—a Gospel of merely accepting Him, and then, as part of this world, helping to make it better!

When Jesus reached the approximate age of thirty He was baptized, and anointed with the Holy Spirit as the Christ. But before He preached a word—before He could even enter upon His ministry, He, like the first Adam, had to meet Satan in the greatest contest in all eternity!

It was a contest for the rulership of all the earth. Jesus Christ met and conquered Satan by the Word of God. Satan, like his ministers today, quoted Scripture, but he twisted and perverted its meaning. Christ quoted Scripture, accepted it to mean what it says, overcame Satan by obeying it! Jesus withstood Satan's temptations, rejected his deceptions, refused to obey him, conquered him by obeying GOD! Then He

commanded Satan. "Get thee hence!"—and the devil obeyed and slunk away!

Then and there Jesus Christ *qualified* to succeed Satan as RULER OVER ALL THE EARTH! But the time had not yet come for Him to be inaugurated in office. First, He had to return to the throne of God and receive God's official authorization.

God had allotted ONE MILLENNIAL WEEK—that is, a period of seven thousand-year "days"—for the accomplishment of His divine PURPOSE in humanity on this earth. That divine Purpose is the creation of righteous spiritual Sons of God. God allotted the first *six* of these thousand-year periods for Satan's labor of deceiving the human race—six thousand years in which mankind is permitted, if he chooses, to suffer from the "labor" of sin. When the first Adam failed to depose Satan, God extended the duration of Satan's dominion over the earth for six thousand years. This was necessary for the accomplishment of God's great Purpose.

Then, as "in six days God made the heaven and the earth, and the seventh day He rested and was refreshed," even so in the seventh millennium humanity is to "rest" from sin, those converted are to enter into God's spiritual rest;—and in this coming millennium Satan shall not do *any work*—that is, his work of deceiving the world!

Then Jesus will return to earth, this time in all His power and Glory as KING of kings, and LORD of lords.

But, in God's great Plan, He has purposed that Christ shall rule by and thru many saints then made immortal. They shall form the world-ruling kingdom—the KINGDOM OF GOD—which Kingdom shall rule over all the mortal nations on earth. Time had to be allowed for their conversion.

Jesus Preached GOVERNMENT

So, after meeting and conquering Satan, Jesus devoted three and a half years to teaching His Gospel to His Disciples.

His Gospel—the only true Gospel of Jesus Christ—is not what most people think today. Few have heard it, today!

It was, and is, a Gospel of GOOD GOVERNMENT! The word "gospel" means "GOOD NEWS." And what Jesus preached

—the Message He brought to mankind from God—was the GOOD NEWS of the coming GOVERNMENT OF GOD—the coming world-ruling government *which shall overthrow, blast out of existence, and rule in place of every present government on earth!*

Yes, Jesus Christ said to Pilate that He was born to be a King! He, Himself, is coming again as WORLD KING!

And His Gospel was merely, as one might say, His *political platform* for His Kingdom. He revealed the way to enter it as one of its immortal citizens—the way of salvation. He revealed its laws.

What Jesus taught was that this present world, with its governments, its religions, its economics, its society, is *an evil world*—it is Satan's world—it is a world *in competition against*, and AT WAR AGAINST, HIS COMING KINGDOM—THE WORLD TOMORROW!

Did Jesus Come to Make This a BETTER WORLD?

No, *Jesus did not enter into THIS WORLD'S politics!* He called His Disciples *out of this present evil world*—out of all its customs and philosophies and ways—to a life of SEPARATION from the world.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Follow Me!" And one cannot follow Him and also follow this present world! He did not mean for Christians to go out of the world, physically. He knew they must live in it, but He taught that they should not be *of it*. In his final prayer for His disciples, Jesus said to His Father, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not *of the world*, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:15-16).

To His called ministers Jesus commanded: "Go ye *into*"—(not away from)—"all the world, and *preach the Gospel.*" He did not say go into the world and become part of it, striving to make it a better world. He said go into it and "preach the Gospel." And His Gospel is the Good News of a *different* world altogether—of a coming world to be ruled over entirely not by these present various world governments then reformed, but by HIS KINGDOM which shall blast forever out of existence every government that operates today!

"AMBASSADORS for Christ"

Thus Jesus' disciples live *in* this present evil world as though they were foreigners, here merely as the guests of the nation where they reside, as AMBASSADORS for Christ and His coming Kingdom, here as representatives of HIS coming Kingdom, *not* of any of this world's governments.

As the Word of God reveals in II Cor. 5:17-20, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; . . . Now then we are *ambassadors for Christ.*"

The United States sends an ambassador to the Kremlin. He resides for the time in Moscow, Russia. The Christian in the United States is in the same relative position as the American ambassador in Russia. He is not a Communist. He does not regard the Soviet as his government, and he knows well it is a government mortally opposed to his government. He does not serve the Soviet government, nor enter into its politics, nor devote his time in Moscow to trying to eradicate the evils he sees in their system, or to making their state a better state, or to entering into their politics, or voting, or entering their army or fighting for their cause.

Yet, he subjects himself to all their rules and regulations that in any way concern him or his life while there. If they drive automobiles on the left side of the street, he conforms to their regulations. He does not oppose them, he is SUBJECT to them while there, endeavoring to cause them to like him so as to better represent the interests of *his* government, the United States.

Jesus taught His disciples to render unto Caesar the things that *are* Caesar's. Specifically he was referring to payment of taxes. If the government levies taxes, pay them. The Bible teaching for the Christian is to be SUBJECT to the powers that be in this world, but, on the other hand, Christians shall *obey God* rather than man.

The true Christian will so conduct himself as to be highly regarded by the powers of government where he lives. He will be regarded by them as a good citizen. He will appreciate the privileges, advantages, and opportunities extended. He will regard himself as the *paying guest* of the country where he

resides, and he will act with due courtesy, submission to its rules and regulations insofar as they do not conflict with the commands of God, and submission to their *penalty* where they do.

But the true Christian is one who follows Christ, and Christ did not vote! Jesus did not try to reform Caesar. He did not try to make this a better world. Rather, He preached the doctrine of a radically different world to come—and He called His followers out of all participation in this present evil world, and to allegiance to HIS KINGDOM which is to come.

Citizenship in Heaven

But *His World* is the World *Tomorrow!* His Kingdom, He told Pilate, is *not of this world*—that is, of this AGE, this present time. This is Satan's world and Christ did not come to reform Satan, or improve Satan's handiwork, but to save His followers *from* Satan and his system.

Since God's Kingdom is not literally set up as yet, the true Christian's citizenship, in his heart, is now reserved in heaven (I Peter 1:4, Eph. 2:19).

Christians are called to be separate from the world (II Cor. 6:17), and all its affiliations, whether social, political, economic or religious. They are not to live by the philosophies, customs and ways of this world, but by EVERY WORD OF GOD (Luke 4:4). Jesus taught us *not* to live by traditions of the present society and civilization, but by God's laws (Mark 7:7-9), and He taught here that those who disobey this teaching WORSHIP HIM IN VAIN. Yes, thousands call themselves Christians, think they are converted, believe in Christ, worship Him, but *worship Him in vain*, following the course of this world and its customs and ways, instead of the commandments of God! (Mark 7:7-9.)

Jesus said for the Christian to seek *first* the KINGDOM OF GOD (Mat. 6:33), and He also said we cannot give allegiance to and serve *two* kingdoms (verse 24).

How and When Christians Are to Help Run Government

In the prophecy of Daniel 7, and especially in verses 17-18, and 21-22, and 27, we find revealed how and when Christians are to take part in the running of the government.

In this prophecy Daniel is shown the empires of this world from his day until the Kingdom of God. First was the Chaldean Empire, to be followed by the Persian, the Grecian, the Roman. There is now to be one more resurrection of the Roman Empire—a United States of Europe now forming.

But finally, at Christ's *second* coming, "the saints of the Most High shall take the Kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."

These present governments are to run their course "UNTIL the . . . time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." That time has not yet come. Until then Christians are to obey God and be subject to the powers that be.

When Jesus comes again, it is proclaimed: "The kingdoms of this world *are become* the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and HE shall reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15). Then it is, as Jesus has said, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, *to him will I give power over the nations:* and he shall rule them" (Rev. 2:26-27). The smashing of the present governments of the world is pictured in Daniel 2:34-35, 44.

Then Satan shall be shorn of power to rule the world (Rev. 20:1-4). His qualified successor, Christ, shall then be inaugurated in office. *Then* begins the Sabbath Millennium of Christ's reign—when He shall set His hand again to *save* Israel and the world.

WHY the World's Greatest Church "Is Fallen"

In the prophecy of Revelation 17 is pictured the greatest church in this world—a *professing* Christian church, ruling over many nations, but she is called in Bible language "the great whore"—a most ugly name!

But you will notice, verse 5, she is shown to be a MOTHER church. She has many daughters, who, even tho they have come out of her in "protest" naming themselves from the word "protest," nevertheless are labeled by God's prophecy as "harlots."

And what caused the fall from grace of these great, popular churches—who have DECEIVED ALL OCCIDENTAL NATIONS? (Verse 2 and 18:3). What *was* her fornication?

Notice it—verse 2: "With whom *the kings of the earth* have committed forni-

cation." The "Beast" on which she sits represents the GOVERNMENTS OF THIS WORLD.

The true CHURCH is the affianced Bride of CHRIST. She is to be married to Christ in a Spiritual Marriage AT HIS SECOND COMING! (Rev. 19:7.) Then the true "CHURCH of God" will become the "KINGDOM of God," to rule the earth. But Jesus said, "My Kingdom is *not of this world*." He taught His disciples to keep themselves unspotted from the world—to separate from it.

But this great counterfeit Church, instead of becoming "engaged" to the true Christ, and keeping herself true to Him as coming world ruler, formed an illicit union with the *governments of this world*—entered into this world's politics—sought to DOMINATE this world's governments, took an active part in its affairs! Thus she committed spiritual "fornication"—illicit union *prior* to marriage.

The Roman church united Church and State, actually ruled over the state, which is Satan's kingdom, for more than a thousand years! The popular churches of Christendom nearly all take active, vigorous part in this world's affairs and its politics. Most churches will now be instructing their members HOW TO VOTE in this presidential election. They are part and parcel of THIS WORLD, and they serve only THE GOD OF THIS WORLD, Satan the devil. *They are deceived!* They do not even know they are doing wrong—they ARE DECEIVED!

This entire system—religion taking part in politics—is labeled "BABYLON" (Rev. 17:5).

"But," some who follow 'Anglo-Israel' teaching will object, "we Americans are ISRAEL. Since we are nationally the race of ISRAEL, ought we not to take active part in our nation's affairs?"

We are ISRAEL, yes—but Israel today is not living under God's divine form of government, which is THEOCRACY, but under a *form* of the BABYLONISH SYSTEM.

The governments which have constituted the various stages of the Roman Empire which *is* "Babylon" have called their particular form of this system "Fascism." We call ours the "republican" form, or, erroneously, "Democracy." But it is a MAN-MADE form of administration of the BABYLONISH SYSTEM.

ISRAEL—the United States, Britain, the “Democracies” of northwestern Europe—modern Israel IS IN BABYLON TODAY, just as prophecy states (Jer. 50:1,4-6, 8, Isa. 48:1,12-20, etc.). It is because of this—*because our sins are increasing*—because we have made alliances with heathen powers instead of relying upon our God—that the Eternal warns us our nations are soon to be invaded and conquered, in order to bring our people back to God (Isa. 47:1-6; Jer. 30:7-16,24; Micah 5:8-11; Ezek. 3:1,4-7,17, 5:12-14; 6:11-14). Yes, ISRAEL IS IN A “BABYLONISH”

SYSTEM today, and GOD CALLS US OUT! (Rev. 18:4, Jer. 50:8; 51:6-9.

Jesus Would Not Take Part

What, then, would Jesus do in this time of presidential election? He would WARN our people Israel: “COME OUT of her (Babylon), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and *that ye receive not of her plagues!*” The plagues of God are soon to fall upon BABYLON and all who choose to remain a part of “Babylon.” JESUS CALLS YOU OUT!

What would Jesus do? HE WOULD BE TOO BUSY PROCLAIMING THE GOOD

NEWS OF HIS OWN COMING WORLD-RULING KINGDOM, and the way of salvation, to take any part whatsoever in the politics of this present evil world, or in any man-made form of government that is DOOMED very soon to be destroyed and replaced by the Theocratic government of THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Our mission is, as Ambassadors of Christ—as advance emissaries of HIS KINGDOM—to WARN Israel of her plight and present danger, to proclaim to all nations the Good News of THE KINGDOM OF GOD!