



# Fake News

Political God

# Recap

**Christianity is now more identified  
with white western culture**

**How did an ancient middle eastern  
religion become synonymous with this?**

# Recap

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,  
"As for me, this is my covenant with you:  
You will be the father of **many nations**."

Genesis 17:3



## Recap

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.** They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:  
"Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb." **Revelation 7:9-10**

## Recap

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. **His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

**Ephesians 2:14-16**

**What I  
choose**



**What I  
believe**



**Preference, Politics or Position**



**Where I  
stand**



# Old Testament Government

A **theocracy** is a form of government that is led by God or by a person or persons who claim to rule by divine authority. The word theocracy is a compound word using theos (Greek for "God") and -cracy ("rule, strength or government"). The nation of Israel was to have been a theocracy, but they rejected God's rule over them, and God gave them human kings instead

# Old Testament Government

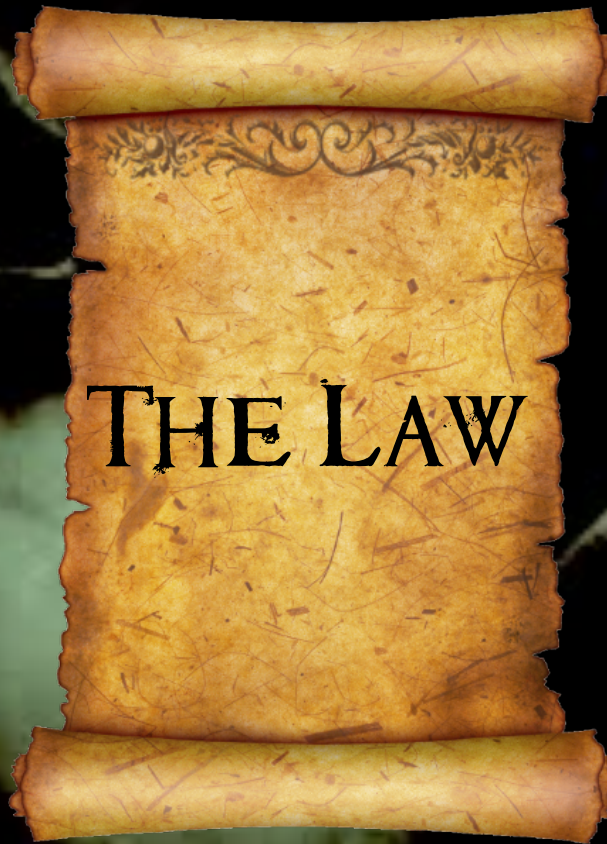
When he (the King) takes the throne of his kingdom, **he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law**, taken from that of the Levitical priests. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that **he may learn to revere the Lord his God** and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and **not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites** and turn from the law to the right or to the left. **Deuteronomy 17:18-20**



# Old Testament Government



**King**



**Prophet**

# New Testament



**The New Testament Christ follower  
lived in a Roman controlled world**



# New Testament

**Claudius (41–54)**–expelled Christians from Rome

**Nero (54–68)**–Killed Peter, Paul and many more

**Domitian (81–96)**–cruel and loved gladiatorial games, called himself "God the Lord"

**Trajan (98–117)**–first emperor to persecute Christians apart from the Jews

**Marcus Aurelius (161–180)**–anti-Christian literature flourished for the first time

**Septimius Severus (193–211)**–in 202 forbade further conversions to Judaism and Christianity

**Decius (249–251)**–first Empire-wide persecution

**Valerian (253–260)**–Christians as scapegoats

**Diocletian (284–305)**–Gifted organizer who led the Great Persecution to extinguish Christianity



# Constantinian Rome

"By his patronage Constantine aligned the **former church of the martyrs**—persecuted, powerless, and pacifist—with the military might and earthly glory of the state. Christianity would never be the same again."  
**David F. Wright**

# Constantinian Rome

As Judea had given Christianity ethics,  
and Greece had given it theology, so  
now **Rome gave it organization**

# Post-Roman Church

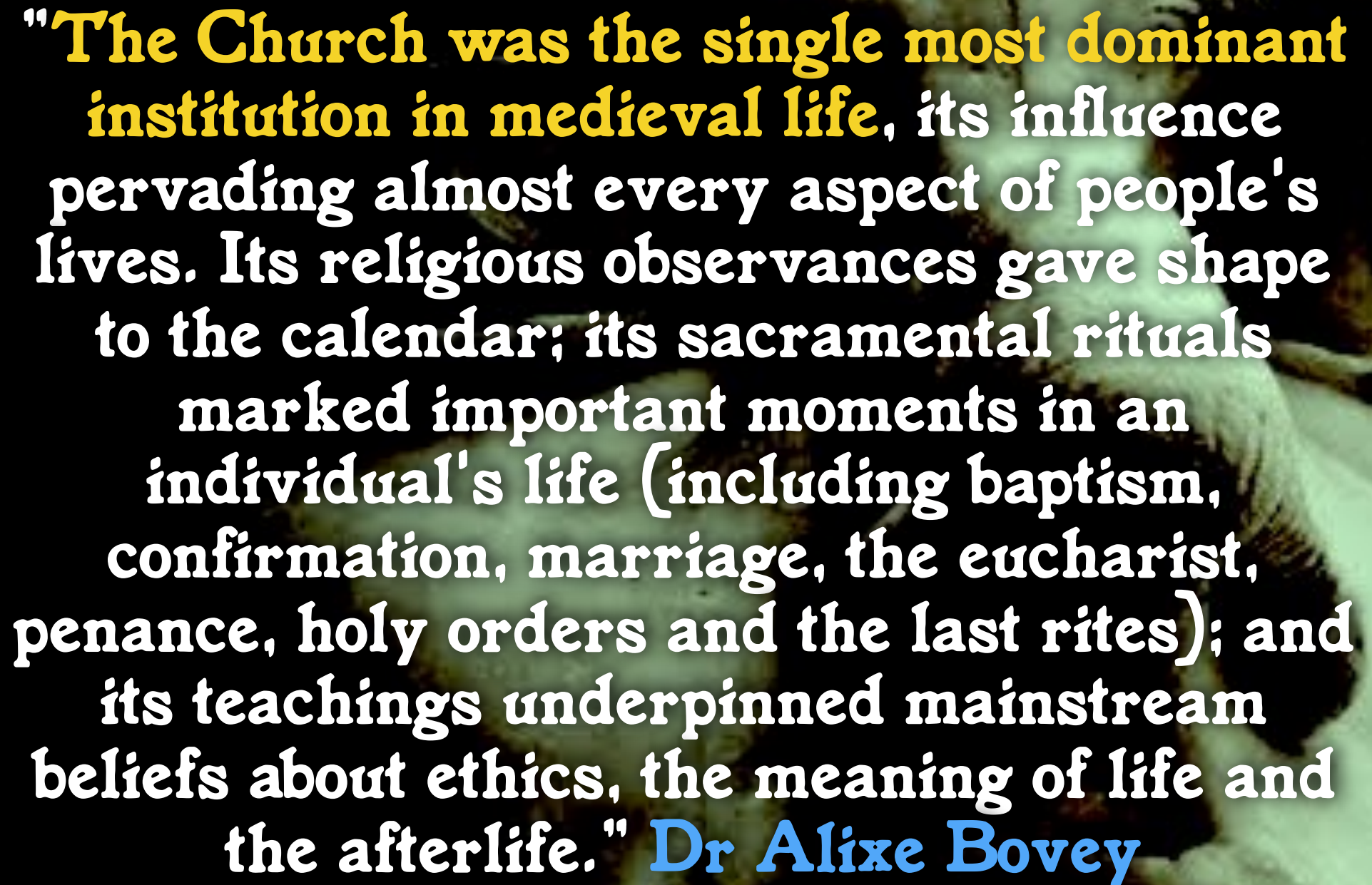
With the decline of the Roman Empire in the West, civil authority fell into the hands of **the only educated class that remained—the churchmen**. The church, which formed the only organized institution, became **the seat of temporal as well as spiritual power**.



# Post-Roman Church



**400 years before the church was  
being hunted by the authorities.  
Now, they were the authority.**



**"The Church was the single most dominant institution in medieval life, its influence pervading almost every aspect of people's lives. Its religious observances gave shape to the calendar; its sacramental rituals marked important moments in an individual's life (including baptism, confirmation, marriage, the eucharist, penance, holy orders and the last rites); and its teachings underpinned mainstream beliefs about ethics, the meaning of life and the afterlife."** **Dr Alixe Bovey**

# The Enlightenment

The Enlightenment is often referred to as the "Age of Reason" and developed in the early-to-mid-17th century from three primary geographical hubs; France, Germany, and Great Britain. **The Enlightenment was marked by changes in thought that contrasted sharply with the philosophies of preceding eras.**

Enlightenment thinkers cast off much of the religious, philosophical, and political ideals of previous generations and forged new ground.





**"I'll argue that Kingdom people are called to pledge their allegiance to God alone, not to any nation, government, political party or ideology. Because Kingdom people are under the rule of God alone, they are not under any other rule...**

**Not only this, but the main task of Kingdom people is to keep the Kingdom "holy" — meaning "set apart," "separate" and "consecrated." We are to take great care to live lives that are set apart from the ideals, values and methods of the world's politics." **Greg Boyd****

# The Tensions

God is above all authorities

No king is saved by the size of his army;

Psalm 33:16

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;  
they are regarded as dust on the scales;

Isaiah 40:15

Jesus answered, "You would have no power  
over me if it were not given to you from  
above." John 19:11

# The Tensions

**We are citizens of a different realm**

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **John 15:19**

But our citizenship is in heaven.  
**Philippians 3:20**

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles... **1 Peter 2:11a**



# The Tensions

**God uses governments for His own ends**

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

**Romans 13:1 (written during the Neronian persecution) 1 Peter 2:13-17**

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, **Titus 3:1**

# The Tensions

**Civil government is secular in nature  
while Christianity is spiritual.**

**My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. [John 17:15-17](#)**

**Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." [John 18:36](#)**

# The Tensions

**When Government and God conflict,  
we choose God**

Peter and the other apostles replied:  
"We must obey God rather than human  
beings! **Acts 5:29**

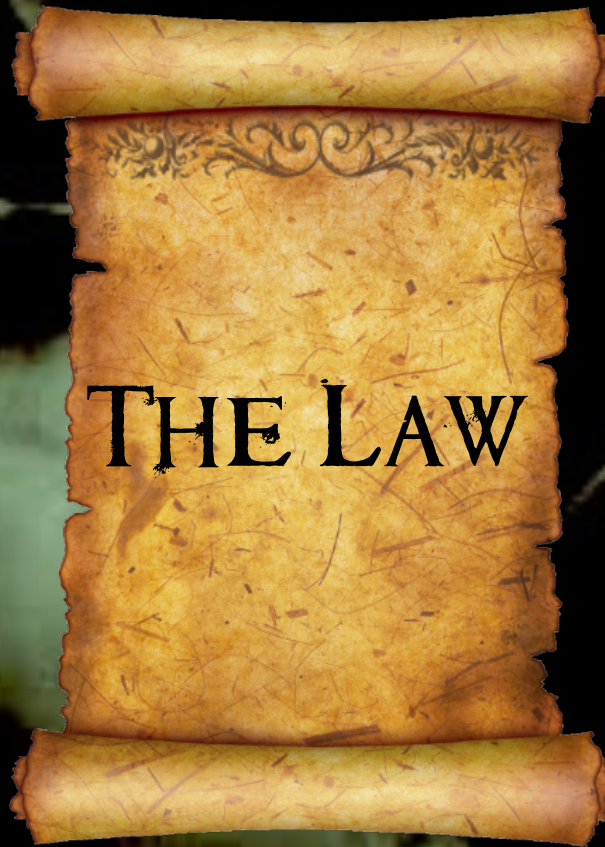
Then they called them in again and  
commanded them not to speak or teach at all in  
the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied,  
"Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you,  
or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we  
cannot help speaking about what we have seen  
and heard." **Acts 4:18-20**



# Old Political Engagement



Government



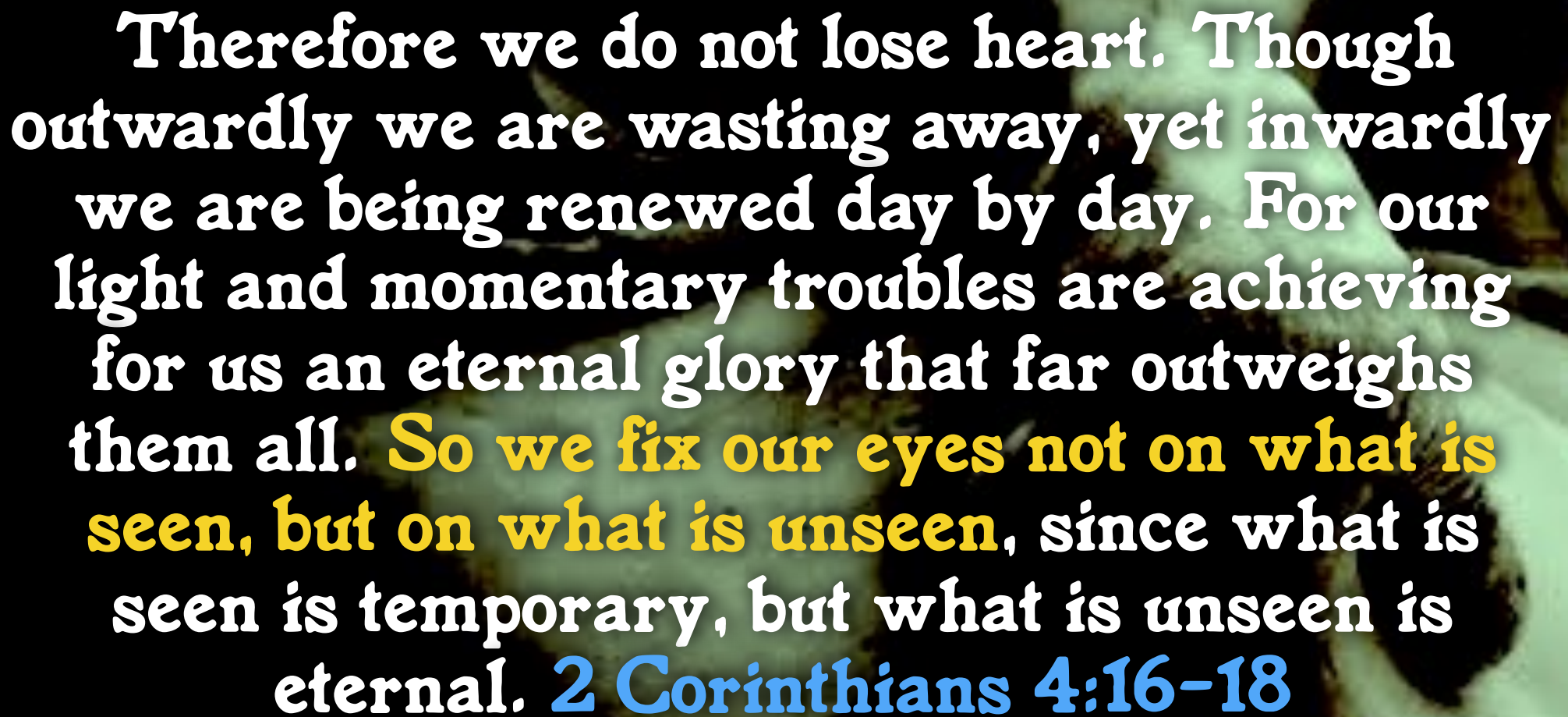
Prophetic Voice



"Who today is speaking prophetically into our culture? Not just pontificating or opinionating, but representing with authority the Kingdom of God? **Where we are expecting that voice to come from a political source, we disconnect the voice of the Church from its proper role within culture.**" Carolyn Moore

"The real value of a prophetic voice is that it exposes the stark contrast between the **Kingdom of God and the culture of a world** that wants its laws to fix all its problems."





Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,** since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**