



The 5 Captains Recruit the Levites; The Coup D'État is Justified Since Athaliah Usurped the Throne; Traditionalists vs. Progressives: California Dreaming

2 Chronicles 23:2 - And they [**the five captains**] went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of the fathers' households of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

v. 3 - Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of the God. And Jehoiada said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the Lord has spoken concerning the sons of David.

Once the Cherethites and Levites were assembled at the Temple, Jehoiada reminded them of the divine justification for carrying out the coup d'état he was proposing. Not only did he present to them the legitimate heir to the throne but also associated the young lad's ascension with the Davidic Covenant:

2 Samuel 7:12 - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Samuel 7:16 - And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

Realizing that the line of David can be restored to the throne, the Cherethites and Levites were willing to join Jehoiada in a collaborative effort to anoint Joash as king of Judah.

One might ponder if this action was justified since it smacks of revolution. Well, no. What Athaliah did was revolution, in fact terrorism. She was not of the tribe of Judah but rather half Jewish, her father from a tribe unknown except that it could not have been either Judah or Benjamin. She was half Phoenician, her mother the pagan daughter of Ethbaal of Tyre.

Further, the Davidic Covenant clearly indicates that those who are to hold the throne of Judah are male offsprings of David's line. Not only was Athaliah unqualified to ascend the throne she accomplished her illegal objective by assassinating her grandchildren, the small sons of her son, Ahaziah. Were it not for the clandestine work of her step-daughter, Jehosheba, Athaliah would have accomplished Lucifer's mission of destroying the line of Christ.

The power in Judah lay ultimately with the throne. But Athaliah usurped the throne through bloodshed but had no qualifications for the office. Jehoiada was the spiritual leader of the nation and had knowledge that the legitimate heir of Ahaziah was sequestered in his quarters inside the Temple complex. He also knew that if Joash's presence ever became known to Athaliah, she would have him murdered, too. Thus, the only legitimate authority functioning in Judah was Jehoiada, the high priest.

As high priest, he could not properly lead the people in the worship of *YHWH Elohim* when Athaliah had elevated the worship of Baal as the preeminent religion in nation.

Although the human soul possesses free will it must be recognized that when a large number of people accumulate in the same geographic location and establish a nation, free people are free to regulate the power of the government they form.



Presently, the United States is in a tug of war between two worldviews: (1) Traditionalism and (2) Progressivism. It is helpful to review these two worldviews. We do so from:

Kohl, Herbert. *From Archetype to Zeitgeist*. (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1992), 158-59:

There are a number of words used to indicate the nature and direction of social, political, and economic change. The status quo is the current historical situation in a particular community, state, or nation. (**Traditionalists**) are people who want to maintain the status quo. **Progressives** are people who advocate a new social, political, or economic order that provides for more personal and group freedom, and a greater equalization of opportunity, wealth, and power. **Reactionaries** are people who want to return to an older order characterized by some traditional authoritarian rule.

If change is partial and occurs through the channels of power considered legitimate in the status quo, it is called reform. Reform adds to the current arrangements or modifies them but it does not attempt to create a new order.

Radical change can take place over a period of time, or it can happen suddenly. When radical change takes place suddenly and power relationships change practically overnight, such change is called revolutionary.

In our country, Traditionalists are those whose status quo is based on the original intent of the Constitution, the principle of community standards, biblical morality, and patriotism. Progressives are those who press for change accomplished by loose, fanciful readings of the Constitution, the application of the Bill of Rights to the States instead of the federal government, humanistic amorality, and globalism.

Traditionalists insist that freedom carries with it the obligations of personal responsibility and personal restraint while Progressives view freedom as a license that imposes no responsibility for one's decisions and places no restraints on one's actions.

This has led to cultural warfare with both sides now possessing approximately an equal number of troops. But pendulums swing both ways and the citizens of California have about had as much Progressivism as they can stand, at least out of their present governor, Gray Davis. This man has so fouled the works citizens are signing a petition to remove him from office. If they are successful then *reform* can occur by at least a slight pendulum reversal toward Traditionalist principles.

The result of this saga remains to be seen but it is not without its shenanigans and one concerned Californian has written to me on the subject. Out of respect for his privacy his name will be withheld but I am sure his query is typical of many believers in the Golden State:

I'd like to ask you a question about a recent class in which you spoke of enduring the tough times, specifically the decisions of our leaders and not taking measures into our own hands, i.e., assassination, revolting, murder, etc. In effect you said, we are to vote and endure.

Well, I reside in Los Angeles, California. You may be aware of the past and current economic crisis here, as well as the massive, liberal influence. California is essentially "in the tank". We have been enduring this crisis for some time even before energy taxes were raised back in 2000 and more recently culminating in the ridiculous tripling of vehicle license tax authorized personally by Gray Davis (which was almost astronomical to begin with). Currently the state of California has a minus balance in the bank and deficit of \$38 BILLION which continues to swell everyday.



Gov. Gray Davis is now being petitioned for a recall of his position in the government. However, as a counter attack, Davis has launched a lobbying campaign to gain signatures under the guise of keeping our public school teachers, law enforcement people and firefighters employed (a seemingly good thing) and various other lobbying. In reality, if one attempts to read the fine print of the petition (lobbyists have been instructed to discourage the signatories from doing so by the Davis administration) he will find there the petition is actually an anti-recall of himself. This is leading less discerning Californians to support a false representation.

So I ask you. How much thug-like, deceitful leadership are the people to endure?

In the meantime I'd like to request the congregation's prayers for California, its population, and its governmental leadership. I'm concerned there aren't enough positive believers in this state to make the difference.

It seems ambassador demons are busy in California. My response to the gentleman centers on his concern about enduring political downtrends and the responsibility of Christians toward unjust leadership:

Earthly paradises seem to always attract the *hoi polloi*. They go there because they seek heaven on earth and visually pleasant environs give them the false hope of achieving environmental perfection which they assume they can legislate. You have put your finger on the problem. The people of California *have* voted. The Enviro-Mentals have won along with the homosexuals, the liberals, the welfare-state progressives, the open-border lobby, et al. Democracy in action. They have free will and God allows them to use it to their own detriment and demise. The innocent suffer but only for a time for they have the escape hatch called eternal security.

There are no human solutions to the problems of California or any other state for that matter. We as a people have bought the lie and we are living the ramifications. Yet God prospers the positive even during periods of national discipline.

It should be considered that during the Incarnation the man who ruled SPQR was Tiberius. A nut case! The problems he imposed upon Roman culture are legion. This is the man to whom our Lord was honor bound to support and submit. When He told the Pharisees and Herodians in Matthew 22:21 "to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's," the man whose likeness was on the coin was Tiberius's. The Lord also mentioned that we are "in the world" not "of the world." We are "citizens of a heavenly community." We serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. He protects us from the machinations of human leaders. If we suffer it is undeserved and thus presents an opportunity for eternal reward if we endure. While our trials continue in the devil's world consider the advice of:

1 Peter 2:13 - Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

v. 14 - or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

v. 15 - For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

v. 16 - Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves to God.

v. 17 - Honor all men; love the brotherhood; fear God; honor the king.



These are our marching orders. They ain't fun, they ain't easy, but they're our duty. The only offensive weapon we have is the power of the Word of God. Boldly present it that it might change the minds of a few. The more folk we convert to God's way of thinking the more impact there will be within the halls of human government. As California has lost the Thought presently there is no reason why it can't regain the Thought eventually. I doubt the prospect of much success but the Thought is all we've got, it's all we've ever had, and frankly, it's all we need. Continue to lock and load your soul with the artillery of doctrine and fire away. You will make some friends and a lot of enemies but there will be very, very few who remain gray.

Gray Davis holds the governor's chair in the State of California because the people voted it to him. There is a legitimate procedure for him to be removed short of revolution. This procedure is codified in the laws of the State and is being utilized by those who would like to see the governor retire.

What about Judah? What recourse do the people of Judah have to rectify the seizure of its throne? First of all, the one who seized the throne is the one who is guilty. The crime is usurpation, defined by:

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, s.v. "usurpation":

The illegal seizure of royal sovereignty. The illegal encroachment upon or exercise of authority or privilege belonging to another.