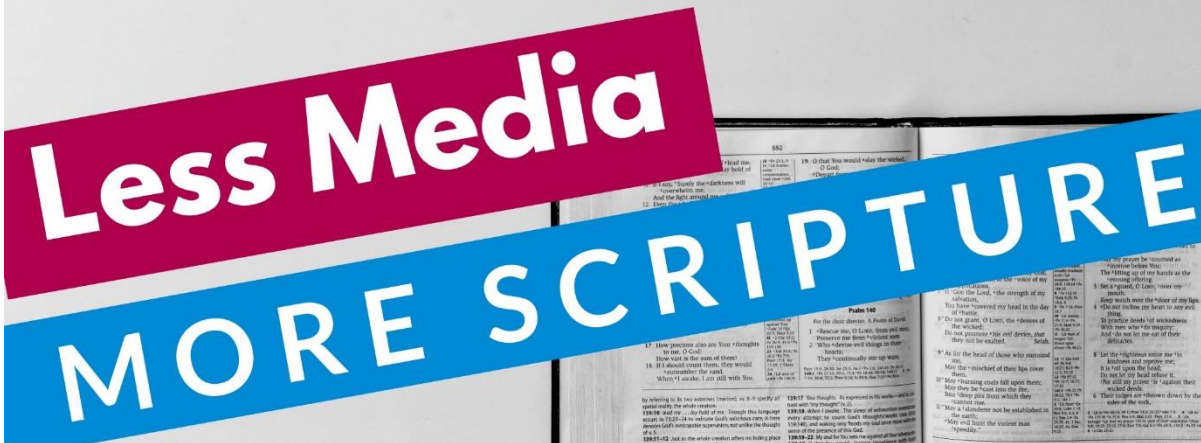


Peace in Political Chaos



The history told in Scripture matters for us today because God's word is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and useful for teaching (2 Timothy 3:16). This history is non-biased because it is God-breathed, and God is the author of life and of time, and thus, He is the author of history.

Scripture declares and demonstrates that God is sovereign over all of Creation and history and that he sets up kings and removes them (Daniel 2:21). Recognizing God's sovereignty and rule is the key to peace amidst political chaos.

Step One: Less Media

Cut out or fast from any and all media sources that could potentially discuss the election and its candidates during this time - regardless of their political leaning. We do this for ourselves and our children. Consider if the following passages can rightly be attributed to you in the midst of political chaos.

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:2)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

Step Two: Modeling Obedience and Trust

With media turned off, we can model both obedience to Scripture and trust in the Savior. Consider the following verses and whether or not they are manifest in your life as a believer in Christ in the current political climate:

Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. (Matt. 6:34)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God...(Phil 4:6-7)

In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. (Eccl 7:14)

If our life fails to model obedience to Christ in these ways regarding politics, perhaps repentance is necessary. Inviting our children into our repentance is the best way to model what life as a redeemed believer looks like.

Our children need to know that (a) it is easy to be swept away, and (b) when you realize you've disobeyed, repentance is the appropriate godly response.

Step Three: More Scripture and Prayer

Take time to read these passages of historical narrative from Scripture together as a family or one-on-one with your child. These, among others, emphasize God's sovereignty over kings and kingdoms throughout the course of history. As you read them, seek to demonstrate that God's sovereignty means that He is infinitely good and powerfully in control.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

God's Providence Over Pharaoh in Egypt

- The broad context of the Ten Plagues and the hardening of Pharaoh's heart: ***Exodus 7:1-12:30***
- The key verse where God explains that He established Pharaoh's power for His ultimate glory: ***Exodus 9:13-16***

The Rise and Fall of King Saul

- The earlier context of Saul's disobedience: ***1 Samuel 13:1-14***
- The latter context reveals how far Saul had strayed from God: ***1 Samuel 28:3-19***
- The key verses recording Saul's disobedience that leads to his rejection as king: ***1 Samuel 15:1-28***

God's Sovereign Choice of David as King

- God rejects Saul and chooses David to be king: **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

God Raises Up and Uses Cyrus, a Pagan King

- Isaiah prophesizes the purpose God has for Cyrus in restoring Israel: **Isaiah 45:1-13**
- Follow-up passage detailing Cyrus' decree to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple: **Ezra 1:1-11**

God's Sovereignty Over the Crucifixion: Jesus & Pilot

- Jesus' trial and conversation with Pontious Pilot before His crucifixion: **John 19:1-16**
- The Gospel of Matthew records the arrest and initial trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin: **Matthew 27:47-68**

PRAYER

Read through the Scriptural commands to pray for and obey the leaders God has sovereignly appointed. This helps children recognize their required submission to greater authority: first, God's, then the government, rulers, and parents. Obedience is based on faith and trust in God's sovereignty—not their lived experience or feelings.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Romans 13:1-7

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... This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

1 Peter 2:13-17

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Titus 3:1-2

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

Matthew 11:17-21

Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?' But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, 'You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

Jeremiah 29:7

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Hebrews 13:17

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Then, obey these commands by praying for our nation, our leaders, and for every citizen's heart to come to a knowledge of God. Pray against anxiety and fear in your heart and the hearts of others.

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Finally, before the election results are announced, you must prepare your heart for peace by meditating on the following Scriptures.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure... think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up... (Ephesians 4:29)

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord... (Jeremiah 17:7)

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Peace amidst political chaos is easily found when we start with Scripture.