

Exodus 50 – Separation of State and Religious Powers

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 25:1-9

Heralds Separation of Powers

- Moses had grouped a portion of laws pertaining to civil matters earlier in Exodus
- At this point, after Moses goes into the Cloud to listen to God give him the “Law”, Moses writes about the Tabernacle and its various accouterments
- This is the first historical separation between what we of today call, “Separation of church and state”

No Ruler to Officiate the Faith

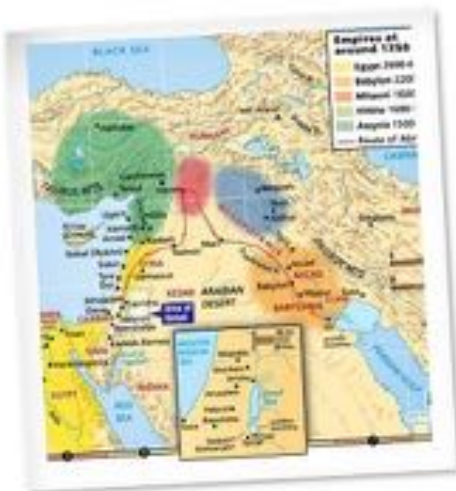
- Pharaoh was both ruler of Egypt and intercessor (god) between Egypt and its gods and goddesses
- This was common in the very ancient kingdoms
- After God institutes the Law and it influences the surrounding kingdoms, future rulers govern the state while a *separate* priesthood governs the religion

Began With Nimrod

- Nimrod was the first person to combine both ruler and god intercessor in one person (Post Cataclysm)
 - This was common in the very ancient kingdoms of which Egypt was the last
- Nebuchadnezzar tried to reinstitute this practice in the Babylonian Empire during the Jewish captivity but God did not allow this choosing instead to save him

Uzziah Sought to act as Priest

- Uzziah tried to burn incense in the Holy Place and God struck him with a form of leprosy (8th century BC)
 - He was forced to live in isolation while his son sat on the throne ruling the nation as vice regent until he died
- No one else tried to recombine the office of ruler and priest in one person; however, this is the goal of Satan when Antichrist rises up and declares himself god



Early Bronze Age Cultures

Kingdoms extending, expanding
 Fighting for "truth" & control
 Egypt extends control into Levant
 Abraham migrates in this period
 Joseph, Hebrews, move to Egypt



Late Bronze Age Kingdoms

Greece: Minoan culture gives way to Mycenaean culture
 Mycenaean destruction of Troy begins the decline of these kingdoms
 These empires cannot effectively concentration power and societies implode

Their Origins Trace to Egypt



- This graphic illustrates God's work with Egypt and the Hebrews that formed the foundation to become today's world
- Without the events in Exodus, none of this would have occurred



Axial Faiths & Kingdoms

Pythagoras could easily have traveled to the contiguous realms
 He began the merging of their faiths into one faith that became Platonism then Gnosticism today
 This contaminated Judaism and Christendom
 This will unify all religions

How Israel Influenced Others

Israel

- Moses raised bronze snake on stake for healing (Nu 21:4-9)
- God shakes Mt Sinai with thunder and lightning
- Moses' face shone with God's glory (Ex 34:29-35)

Other Religions

- Asclepius' symbol is a snake on a staff - healing
- Zeus' hurls lightning from Mt Olympus
- Zarathustra depicted with cephalic glory (anthelia)

God Offers Participation

- This concept is significant
 - Holy creator God does not demand obedience
 - He asks that people give from a "willing" heart
- God only wants people to participate in the Tabernacle who want to have a relationship with Him
- Items donated probably came from the Egyptians

Willing Givenness - Heart of God

- God repeats this in the New Testament (2Co 9:6-7)
 - He wants people who give gladly to Him
 - Giving to God from your love demonstrates your spiritual maturity
 - God does not want people forced to give
 - This inspires works of the flesh
 - Mark of religions, engendering bitterness

Tabernacle – God Dwelling With Man

- Purpose of the Tabernacle was to give man a tangible symbol of God dwelling with them
 - Every aspect of the Tabernacle points to Christ
 - Blood of sacrifice channel of communication between:
 - Holy God
 - Unholy sinner
- Symbol evident to all peoples of God's presence

Pattern God Gave to Moses

- God admonishes Moses to build the items after the pattern He will give to him on the mountain
 - These were patterned after articles in Heaven (Heb. 8:5)
 - These not simply metaphors for Jesus to ignorant folks
 - These were *shadows* of what existed in Heaven eternally showing that God's plan *always* centered about the sacrifice of Christ to redeem His people

Elements Not Just for Israel

- Ark of the Covenant – Mercy Seat
- Table of Bread – Christ – Bread of Life
- Golden Lampstand – Menorah
- Tabernacle – Tent protecting Holy and Holy of Holies
- Bronze Altar – Place of Judgment (Christ or You)

Elements Represent Salvation

Item	Christ
○ Ark of Covenant	○ Blood offered for Life (Le 17:10)
○ Table of Bread	○ Body offered for Law (1Co 1:28)
○ Golden Menorah	○ Light of Righteousness
○ Tabernacle	○ Shielded holiness from flesh
○ Bronze Altar	○ Place of Judgment (He 9:27)

Notice the Pattern



God Does Not Need Tabernacle

- God lives in Heaven outside this physical creation (He 8:27)
- The Tabernacle is for man who needs tangible reminders that God has secured salvation for him
- Provides a place for man to meet with God through the blood of sacrifice reminding man the price of sin is death (not the sinner's) if he accepts Christ's death

First Faith to Teach Personal Morality

- The ancient religions promised salvation by performing various cultic rites without an inward change (reborn)
- God teaches that coming as you are is **not** enough
 - You must come with repentance
 - You must come via the blood of Christ's sinless sacrifice
- You will be born again or you will face judgment **alone**

Not an Act of Volition

- You do not do this because you have arrived at a logical or self-evident conclusion – sinner cannot do this (Ro 3:10)
- You come because God has revealed Himself to you personally and in that moment you were reborn
 - Your new nature called out, Abba, Father to God (Ro 8:15)
 - Salvation is a miracle of God alone (Eph 4:6)

Truth of This Revelation

- Mankind heard and saw the truth of God through:
 - God's humiliation of Egypt
 - God's revelation through Israel in the wilderness
- Each culture reinterpreted this truth via their sinful, cultural tradition beginning the various religions of the Axial Age to hide the light of God (Ro 1:18-25)