

#35 Northside Natter

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Today, I'm taking a brief look at **Government**.

[John Adams](#), the second president of America, wrote the following in a [letter](#) to [John Taylor](#) on 17 December, 1814. (If you want to read the letter in full, or read about these men, click on the live links).

"Remember Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." He also went on to write, "It is in vain to say that democracy is less vain, less proud, less selfish, less ambitious or less avaricious than Aristocracy or Monarchy. It is not true, in fact, and nowhere appears in history. Those passions are the same in all men under all forms of Simple Government, and when unchecked, produce the same effects of fraud, violence and cruelty."

History is jam-packed with rulers who greedily oppressed the people, murdered those who got in their way, and corrupted themselves completely for their own ambitions and vanity. Here are some examples.

King Ahab was the seventh king of Israel and reigned from Samaria for twenty-two years. Judah was already a separate kingdom at this time. His first recorded act was to take the daughter of Ethbaal, King of the Zidonians, to be his wife. Her name was Jezebel. Thus, he went off worshipping and serving baal, *'... as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat ...'* (**1 Kings 16:31**).

On seeing the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, Ahab desired it for himself to make into a garden of herbs. Because Naboth would not part with his ancestral estate, Jezebel had him stoned to death. Ahab stopped his moping about and greedily took possession of the land. Feeding vanities, hating the word of God and corruption of the soul were the examples this royal couple set for its subjects; they followed.

The majority of the kings of Israel and Judah left a similar legacy. It was the people who suffered the most. They looked to their rulers for leadership and prosperity and instead were deceived, robbed and left in poverty.

The French aristocracy was an elite group of nobles who kept the best of everything for themselves; the best land, the best jobs. They included Catholic clergy. All of them overtaxed and overcharged the peasants who became so oppressed and poor that they rose up and did away with the lot of them. You may remember reading of the beheading of France's last queen, Marie Antionette and her husband, King Louis XVI, during the French revolution.

I suppose you could call the French revolution a democratic action. It certainly mirrored the feeling of the majority of people and there seemed to have been plenty of community consensus.

Robert Mugabe was the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. Prior to his appointment, the British Empire ruled in his country and this white minority became the root of a great deal of anger and hatred among the Zimbabweans. Like the French aristocracy, the minority had the best

estates and the money. With Mugabe in power, civil unrest sanctioned by the government left many dead at the hand of angry mobs. The white minority emigrated, leaving the country in a much worse state than before because none of the natives had the farming experience, or knowledge, to keep up the food crops. This led to famine and economic decline.

Mugabe was accused of economic mismanagement, widespread corruption, racism, human rights abuses and crimes against humanity. He was considered a dictator.

Dictators, kings, nobles and even democratic processes have not served the people well. Is there even a government level in *this* country that is not corrupt? Is there a leadership that does not lie? Is there a party that has not increased its wages, superannuation payouts and other monetary benefits?

While democracy sounds like a wonderful way to go, it has its flaws. While democracy calls for the majority rule, we know that the minority rules us today. We experience censorship constantly and are accused of hate speech if we dare to speak what we know is the truth. We are silenced by the loud minority who angrily and hatefully push our opinions aside because we won't agree with theirs. This is the collapse of democracy. It is the bringing in of the opposite, which is a dictatorship. Remember what John Adams wrote about democracy? *It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself.*

In a dictatorship, only a single person, or a small elite group, make the major political decisions, usually without consulting others. They rule with an iron fist. They will stamp out opposition by arresting people (*political prisoners*), or murdering them. They will spread misinformation to twist public opinion to legitimise their position. (*Sean White, political scholar*).

This describes a malicious man-made government and one that does not serve the people. It seems that whatever type of governing system man comes up with, it will never serve the people well. These forms of government always end up serving only those in power.

So, what form of government will serve the people well? What can we, as saints of God, look forward to when Jesus begins his rule?

We are told that Jesus will rule with an iron fist (**Revelation 2:27**). We are told that as overcomers we will rule and reign with him. This is a shared responsibility by an elite group. This sounds like a dictatorship. Yet when we look into the scriptures, we know that it is a *benevolent* government. One that is kind, compassionate, forgiving and generous. Everything this new government brings will be for the betterment of the people and not for the enriching of the government officials. This government will last one thousand years (**Revelation 20**) after which time, Satan is to be released and a great battle will take place between those who refuse to accept God and the Lord's Saints. After this battle, eternity begins.

During the millennial reign, we will see the promises of God put in place. God promised to reinstate certain nations, to restore David's heir to the throne, to gather true Israel together as a nation. We are told Jesus will be given dominion over the gentiles and the saints will reign with him.

We know God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, therefore we can say the laws of the Lord will be the same then as they are now. They are enduring and for our betterment. They lead to the reward of eternal life.

Under this new rule, creation will be set free from its bondage of corruption (**Romans 8:19**), animals will live in peace with each other, fields will produce abundantly, man will be free from illness and sinners will be forgiven (**Isaiah 33:24**). There will be none who die before they are a hundred years old (**Isaiah 65:20**). There will be no war, only peace because Satan will be bound in chains for the millennium. And so much more; **Isaiah 35:5-6, 61:1-2; Ezekiel 34:16**.

Yet in all this wonderful and abundant life, there will still be those who refuse to worship God. This period of benevolent reign will sort the sheep from the goats. It will be a time of comfortable living – which we know is man's worst enemy when it comes to worshipping our Lord; laziness creeps in.

This system of government is a perfect one. It has only the good of the people at its heart. It recognises that God is the source of life, happiness, abundance, richness, goodness, peace and equality. All this government requires is the worship of the one true God. There is no corruption, no evil intent, no other agenda.

God is a loving father whose only purpose is to be with his loving children. Our job is to stay on track to make sure we are one of them.