

Keeping the Republic

You may be like me and have grown a bit tired of hearing the story of **Mrs. Powell**, the wife of Philadelphia's mayor, and **Benjamin Franklin** after the Constitutional Convention. The story goes that on September 19, 1787, after the Constitutional Convention endorsed the final form of the Constitution, Ben Franklin went outside the hall in Philadelphia and was asked by a Mrs. Powell:

"Well Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Franklin replied: "A republic, if you can keep it."¹

In recent months I have heard that story repeated by many earnest speakers regarding the future of our nation. Some butcher the story and some get it right. No matter how many times we hear we need to hear the point.

A republic is hard to keep because the government is "of the people, by the people and for the people" and people have issues. The people have a strong obligation in our Republic to get involved in the politics of our government. This means that the people have a responsibility to live up to the principles inherent in the republic. Otherwise, the republic will fall.

We know that not every republic is like the one our Founders and Framers envisioned and established. They saw our responsibility before God and established a republic based on Him and His word. France, for instance, established a godless republic after we established ours. Instead of basing it on God, they based it on man.

The French rebelled at God and faith in their new republic. Instead of using "the year of our Lord" on documents, for instance, they started a new calendar with the first year of their republic as "Year One." They replaced the Bible's seven day week with a ten day week and a ten month year. They banned crosses as being offensive; destroyed religious monuments; outlawed public and private worship; executed priests and ministers on sight; desecrated Christian graves; and closed churches, some of which were used for depraved purposes.²

So, what is so important about our republic? Why should we fight to keep it? Are we different than France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics?

Our republic was based on the Bible and followed the example of God's intentions for Israel. We know Israel did not always live up to God's expectations, and neither do we. Thank God He does not cast us off in our offenses but is "longsuffering/patient, not willing that any should perish" (**2 Peter 3:9**). Consider some examples of Israel that we imitated through the word of God.

1. **No King but God.** Yes, they had a leader, Moses, when they left Egypt but did not select a king for years. It was God's intention to be their King.
2. **Equality.** With no king or royal family, this meant everyone was equal before God. Christians have a saying, "**The ground is level at the foot of the cross.**" That concept was true then and now. You know as well as I do that right now in America there are rules for the elites and rules for us commoners. We are not equal under the law right now. That was never God's intention or that of our Founders and Framers. God said in **Deuteronomy 1:17** (ESV):

¹ Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, Sixteenth Edition, at 310:26, referenced under "A republic, if you can keep it."

² William J. Federer, *Socialism: The Real History from Plato to the Present*, pp. 68-72.

¹⁷ You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's.

3. **Private Property.** Of course everything belongs to the LORD (**Psalm 24:1**) but when God sent the people into the Land, He gave them perpetual private property (see **Exodus 20:15 and 17**). With that property came the potential to amass wealth. The Bible calls it “blessings.” Karl Marx opposed private property. In his Manifesto he said that the theory of Communists can be summed up in the abolishment of private property. Our Republic endorsed private property like Israel and unlike the Godless Communists.
4. **Welfare System.** **Leviticus 19:9-10** describe the welfare system of Israel. America has always had a benevolent heart as part of our biblical DNA. Israel was compelled to care for the poor, so are we because we have followed the same teachings. Certainly our welfare system could use an overhaul but the spirit is there to care for those in need (see also **James 1:27**).
5. **Choosing Leaders.** Honest elections allowed for government by the consent of the governed (we would say, “of, by, and for the people”). Read **Deuteronomy 1:3-13** (ESV) and notice especially **verse 13:**

¹³ Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.’

Time doesn't permit a full rehearsal of all of the similarities between Israel and America. These few help us grasp the importance of keeping a godly republic, not just a republic. To keep our republic intense work is required. That work involves knowing and obeying the scriptures. **John Adams** said that our Constitution was fit only for a moral and religious people. That is true today, too.

That work involves vigilance in what is going on in our schools, communities, and governments. We can no longer just allow our leaders the luxury of no accountability. Is it any wonder why the Marxists got rid of prayer and Bible study from our public schools? But, why did we go along with it? Why didn't we fight to keep our republic?

There is no doubt that we are in a fight for the soul of America right now. I want to encourage you to pray, to equip yourselves with the whole armor of God and stand together against the onslaught of evil being perpetuated in our land. Our republic is worth fighting for because, when done correctly it can be a foretaste of the eternal rule of Jesus and the betterment of all mankind through Him.

Keep The Light of Our Republic Burning!