

The Curse of the Fall Series

01

MAN CANNOT RULE MAN





"MAN WAS ENGINEERED TO BE A FOLLOWER OF GOD, NOT A LEADER OF MEN."

Today, many American Christians are fascinated with exploring and understanding the "original intent" of America's founding fathers as they penned the U.S. Constitution.

Original intent is an important legal concept that seeks to discover the original meaning of a text, just as it was understood at the time that it was written. And while this concept has often been applied to the U.S. Constitution and other governing documents, how much more important it is to explore and understand the concept of "original intent" as it pertains to God's purpose in creation, as written in the Bible!

If history is a guide to anything, it is a guide to the rise and inevitable decline of failed human governments throughout the ages. And although human government is a necessary evil in man's current sinful state, the biblical story of Creation clearly establishes that it was not God's "original intent" for mankind.

Man Cannot Rule Man

*Man was engineered to be a **follower** of God, not a **leader** of man.*

But according to the biblical record, mankind rejected God's rightful authority in the Garden of Eden. (See Genesis 3) That ancient rebellion testifies against all of mankind, even to this day. Today, **we are still paying the consequences of the curse** pronounced upon the first man and woman after their fall from grace in the perfection of Eden.

"Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." - Psalm 146:3

Mankind's ancient act of rebellion has been followed up by at least six millennia of failed attempts at self-rule, and the consequences have been tragic. A historical examination of human government confirms that men are completely incapable of consistently ruling in a just and fair manner. Man's astonishing lack of leadership capabilities is further aggravated by man's ungovernable nature.

Put simply, mankind is a rebellious race that originally refused -- and continues to refuse -- to be ruled by its Creator.

And if we choose to believe the Bible when it says that mankind's rebellion will become worse with time, it would also explain why the 20th century has been noted as the "bloodiest century" on record. (*Ironically, the 20th century has also been labeled the "American Century."*)

Thus, the guiding thesis of this series is quite simple:

Man's attempts at self-rule outside of Eden have failed because he was not designed, nor was he ever meant, to rule over himself. The seeds of rebellion against God have long been sown by man. Therefore, our modern harvest of perpetual warfare, political corruption, and financial shenanigans should come as no surprise. The harvest of rebellion against God is disappointment, and ultimately death.

'Blind Leading the Blind'

Today, we live in the tumultuous and confusing environment of man's pitiful attempts at self-rule. A deep and growing hunger for man-made solutions to God-sized problems leaves us constantly dissatisfied.

Politicians promise peace... and deliver *war*.

They promise certainty... but deliver *chaos*. This is what happens when the "blind lead the blind." (Matt. 15:14)

Amid complete spiritual darkness, men turn to each other for the answers that only God can provide.

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Men hope for other men to solve the problems that plague a broken world. Like the definition of insanity, modern democracies keep electing individuals with the hope that something will change.

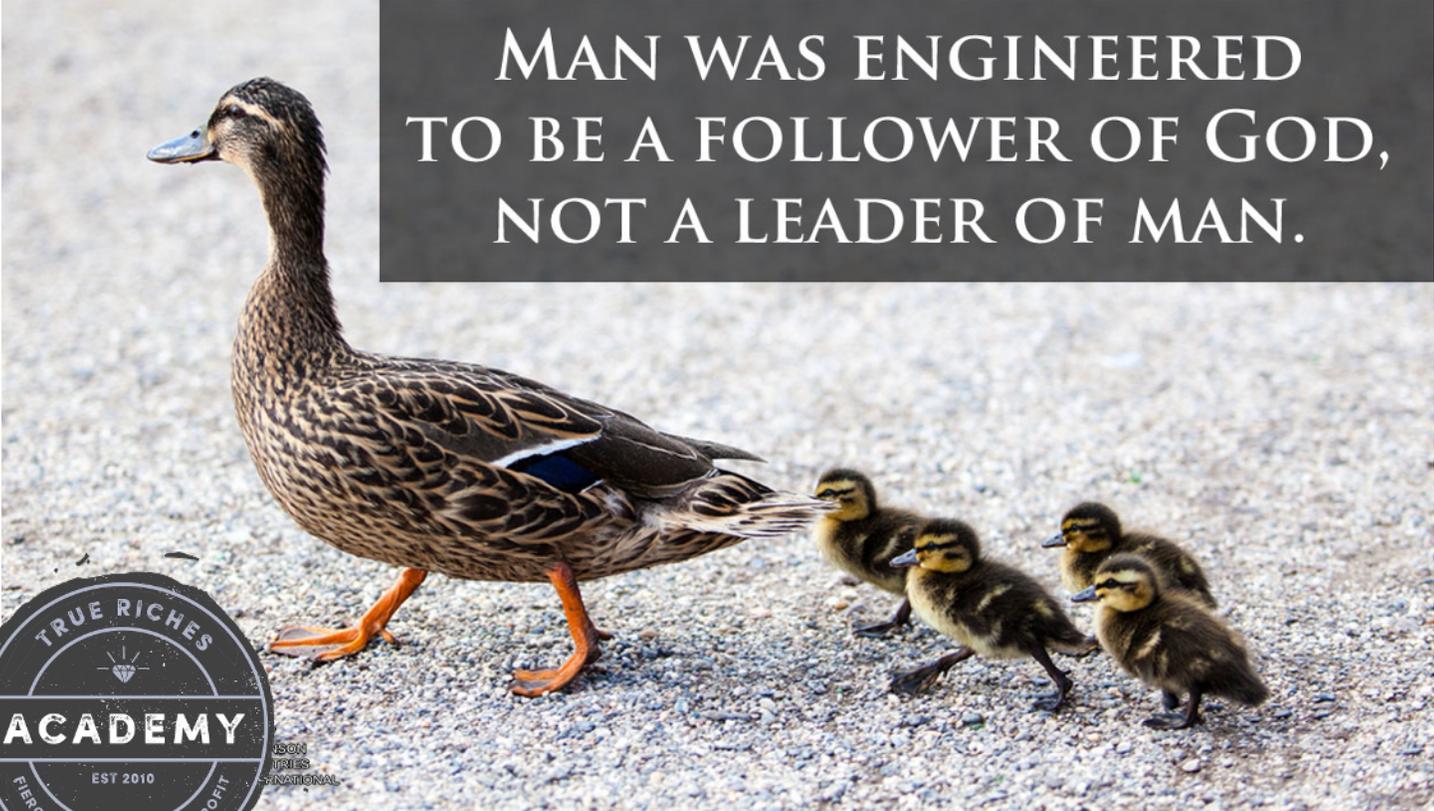
But we are **always** disappointed.

And this disappointment will continue until God's Kingdom is permanently re-established on this earth.

More than at any time in history, it is vital that men admit their rebellion and inability at self-rule. We experience true spiritual wholeness only when we thoroughly understand our true nature. To fully appreciate our new nature in Christ, we must first reckon with our old nature in Adam.

Self-examination and self-introspection have always been arduous for men, but this is especially true today. Discerning our true sin nature in Adam requires certain spiritual disciplines that are increasingly in short supply.

True spiritual freedom in Christ is marked by a deep appreciation for the absolute necessity of God's Kingdom to replace the failed kingdoms of men.



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PERSON
TRIPLES
INTERNATIONAL

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“WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD”

SEE HEBREWS 11:10



Our only hope is found in Christ and in His soon coming Kingdom. Like the patriarch Abraham, we too are looking and longing for that city “whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). If we place our hope in this present world system we are setting ourselves up for great disappointment. The Bible plainly tells us that Christ’s final act of judgment upon this failed world system will be full annihilation. According to the Apostle Peter, *“the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”* (2 Pet. 3:10)

This world is doomed because mankind has dared to defy the Supreme authority of the living God of heaven. Man’s failed quest for self-rule will end in absolute destruction. That is why the man-made earthly hopes and values promoted by this world are vain and empty.

The world’s political systems, its bureaucracies, organizations, religions, pleasures, and philosophies are all going to be destroyed at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!

“It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.” - Psalm 118:8

'ALL OF MAN'S BEST
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All of our "best" efforts at self-government will be destroyed when Christ returns. He promises to come from heaven dressed for battle to smite the nations with His wrath and set up His own Kingdom on the earth, in which He will reign for a period of 1,000 years. (See Revelation 19)

With this in mind, ask yourself this question: ***According to the Bible, which present form of human government will be shielded from the wrath of God's anger on that great "Day of the Lord"?***

The answer is none.

Peter continues by providing us with some much needed perspective: **"Since all these things [earth and all of its works] will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" (2 Pet. 3:11)**

Peter's question, which carries significant relevance for our current generation, is one that could radically change every church house in America, if heeded. Sadly, **many churches in America encourage friendship with the world.** But the Bible says that those who are friends of this world are the enemies of God. (1 John 2:15-17)

My hope is that this study will awaken some within the Body of Christ to the fact that the kingdoms of men that compose this present worldly system offer no real lasting hope. Let us truly redeem the time by promoting the Kingdom of God and by focusing less time and attention on seeking to reform the failed, corrupt, and doomed kingdoms of this world.

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Satan's Original Lie: "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

While the primary thesis of this study is that men cannot rule men, an important secondary theme is that modern followers of Christ must be vigilant in guarding against the deceptions that surround humanity's failed attempts at self-rule. In this, I speak specifically to my own fellow citizens of the United States of America. **The spiritual deception of America's form of government goes undetected by those who believe the original lie that "men can rule men."**

But America's spiritually deceptive nature is on full display to those with open spiritual eyes. **In fact, America represents the culmination of all that Eve was promised by the serpent in the Garden of Eden: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**



"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD." - Jer. 17:5

1. LIFE. America offers "life" to its citizens just as Satan promised Eve.

The temporal life of pleasure that Satan promised to Eve is now offered once again to men in these last days by the American form of government. In contrast, Jesus Christ promises His followers a challenging life and compels them to follow Him in physical death so that they might have everlasting spiritual life. (Matt. 10:23,24; 16:24-26; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23;14:26,27; John 14:6)

Christ says that ANY semblance of "life" apart from Him is merely an illusion and not reality. (John 8:32) What we call "life" apart from Christ, the Bible calls spiritual death. Apart from God we are dead, not alive. And no one outside of Christ can offer life. Certainly not a nation-state, nor a conniving serpent in Eden.

2. LIBERTY. America offers "liberty" to its citizens just as Satan promised Eve.

As perfect humans living in God's perfect Garden, Adam and Eve walked in complete spiritual liberty.



**AMERICA REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF
ALL THAT EVE WAS PROMISED IN EDEN:
LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS**



When Satan (the serpent) tempted Eve, he offered a cheap substitute: temporary "physical liberty" from the dictates of a heavenly Monarch.

The serpent tempted Eve to rebel against the Creator's commands by operating according to her own "self-interest," not in the interest of her Creator, her husband, or even of future humanity.

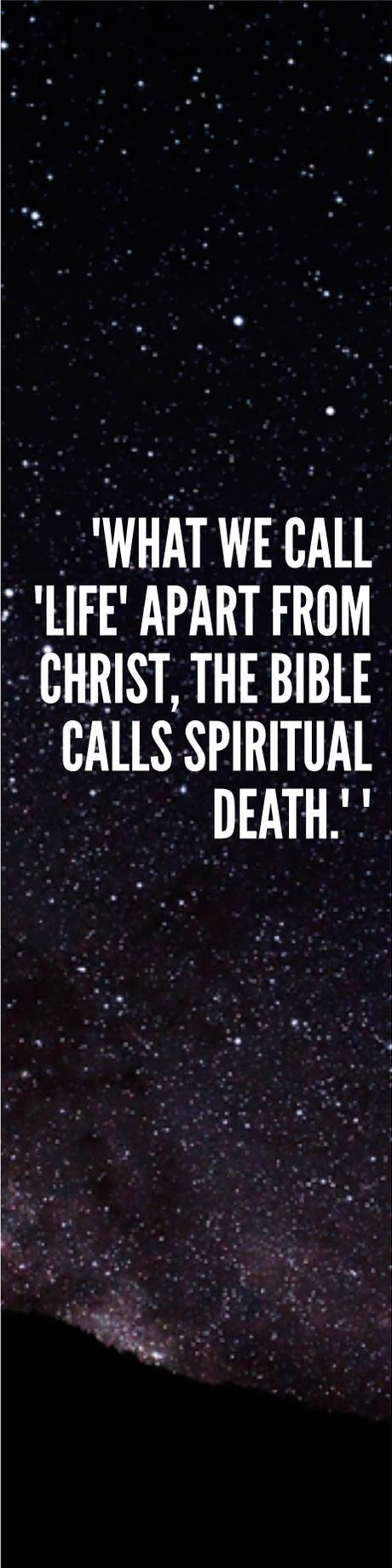
Temporary physical liberty may be one of the most spiritually deceptive concepts of our age, in that it serves as a counterfeit replacement to true spiritual liberty.

Throughout history, relatively few humans have lived under a government where "physical" liberty was honored and protected by law. For much of recorded history, mankind has travailed under varying forms of heavy-handed, and often brutal monarchies. A new form of government, known as **democracy**, formed in the centuries just prior to Christ's First Coming in ancient Greece. Though democracy's origins are found in ancient Greece, this form of government virtually disappeared for centuries before rising again with a vengeance in the 18th century, in an ascent marked by bloody revolutions.

Some Christians argue America's "democratic republic" form of government is the best form of government ever devised by humans. This view is hard to deny from a purely physical perspective.

After all, democratic ideals have served to unleash market forces, paving the way for enormous advances in human productivity. Higher production levels lead to higher profits, which can then be used to invest in local communities.

After millennia of tinkering with various forms of governments, the reigning opinion, at least in the West, is that some semblance of democratic rule, rooted in codified laws and statutes, is the most optimal.



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Since the rebellion of Eden until today, men have always preferred to pursue their own self-interests. This pursuit of self-interest has served to optimize, improve, and even extend the length and quality of physical life, for most.

But from a Biblical perspective, the act of extending or improving physical life does nothing to improve our corrupt spiritual nature. In fact, one could easily argue that our modern obsession with improving our fleeting "physical" life has served to distract us from improving our "spiritual" life.

In reality, our brief physical life on this earth is but a quick moment compared to eternity. (James 4:14)

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ models a simple and austere life.

He avoided political entanglements and spent most of His time with those who were broken, poor, needy, lonely, diseased, and hungry.

When Jesus declared that He had come that his hearers "might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," He was talking about the kind of life that only He is capable of giving. This is spiritual life. Our physical bodies are merely the containers for our spirit.

As Paul tells Timothy: **"Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." (1 Tim. 4:8)**

Any philosophy that places a greater priority on this temporary physical life than on the one to come can easily deceive. Such a philosophy is based upon illusion, not reality. **Followers of Christ do well to comprehend the deceptive nature of our nation's strong emphasis upon this temporal physical life.**

Beware, as deceptions lurk where you least expect them.

The Bible explains that mankind is enslaved. *We are slaves.* Ignore your physical perceptions. You may feel free. But the Bible is stubbornly clear. Without Christ, you are living in bondage. (Rom. 6:15-23, 8:2)

When God looks upon us without Christ, He sees a spiritually dead man or woman bound in chains.

"Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?" - Isa. 2:22

What He sees is reality. What we see is a distorted illusion.

If we, like Elisha, could gain just one just fleeting glance of the ongoing activity in the spirit world that surrounds us, it would forever change our perceptions of reality. (2 Kings 6:15-18) It would sensitize us to the spiritual nature of our world. **Those who focus strictly on the physical nature of our existence are woefully ripe for deception in the last days.**

By this, I am stressing the importance of cultivating a quiet mind, a finely-tuned ear, and a meditative heart. Developing spiritual sensitivity is important to the young Christian. Exercising it is just as important to the mature in Christ.

3. PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. America encourages its citizens to follow after its own lusts just as Satan encouraged Eve to pursue her lusts.

One of the fundamental rights laid out in early America's founding documents is the right to "pursue" whatever makes us happy or that brings us pleasure, within reason.

Consider the word "pursuit." It is derived from an Anglo-Norman French word, "purseute", which literally means 'following after.'

In America, our stated national emphasis is to create an environment where men are free to "follow after" and strive toward whatever brings them happiness and pleasure. (And we are told this was God's idea.)

Likewise, the serpent encouraged Eve to pursue, or follow after, her own happiness in the Garden. You don't need a seminary degree to know this is the polar opposite of what Jesus Christ urged his followers to pursue during His earthly ministry. Jesus challenged his listeners to follow Him down a narrow path that was guaranteed to include persecution and possibly even martyrdom. (Matt. 7:13,14, 10:22, 24:9; Luke 13:24; John 15:18-21, 16:2)

Jesus' command to "follow Him" collides head-on with America's call to pursue your own happiness.

**'JESUS' COMMAND
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'SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS CREATE A FALSE SENSE OF PROGRESS. DON'T BE DECEIVED.'

Today, in America, our pursuit of happiness has led many of us into a life of great leisure. Our generation, which many American Christians believe to be the last just prior to the return of Christ, is undoubtedly the laziest and richest to ever grace the planet.

Human Progress is an Illusion

The lie that man is capable of self-rule is almost always accompanied by another deception; namely, that mankind is "improving" on the whole with the passage of time.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Don't be deceived by modern scientific and technological advancements. The enhancement, extension, or improvement of the quality of physical life on this planet is not the proper measurement of mankind's spiritual state. Scientific and technological progress create a false sense of improvement in mankind's plight on this decaying earth.

Like the fig leaves that the first man and woman used to cover themselves in Eden, mankind cleverly attempts to ignore his true spiritual condition by hiding behind "progress."

We like to believe that our scientific and technological advancements are signs of our great moral progress. However, we applaud our "progress" alone, without God.

The problem is not without. It is within. Our sin nature keeps us separated from God. Despite our best attempts to ignore this fact, the truth remains: Without Christ, we are mired in sin and are destined for eternal separation from God.

Despite the present spiritual deception and confusion that plagues our modern era, **those who believe in -- and follow -- Jesus Christ have great hope.** No matter how desperate things may appear on the surface, God's sovereign plan of the ages will prevail and those who place their trust in their Creator will be safe.

I look forward to sharing many more insights with you to help challenge your thinking as this series on the Curse of the Fall continues.

The Curse of the Fall Series

02

THE FINAL GREAT AWAKENING

Next in the Series

