

S – Separation of Church and State

Matthew 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. **Matthew 22:16** And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. **Matthew 22:17** Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? **Matthew 22:18** But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? **Matthew 22:19** Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. **Matthew 22:20** And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? **Matthew 22:21** They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. **Matthew 22:22** When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

John Clarke pastor of the 2nd Baptist church in the USA in Newport, RI traveled with John Crandall & Obadiah Holmes to visit a fellow Baptist near Boston....

A man by the name of Henry Dunster (1609-1659) was considered the greatest scholar in the New World and was the 1st President of Harvard overheard and saw Obadiah Holmes....

Church / religion and State is a complicated mess. It is usually a moving target.

Elimination	Persecution	Toleration (as a 2nd class citizen)	Liberation / Religious Freedom
This is found: North Korea, Islam, China, Rome (200 – 300s), Monguls (1200)	This is found: Russia, Cuba, Venezuala, India	This is found: United States, England (1689 – 1850s)	This is found: True separation of church and state: Philippines
Christianity ceases to exist.	Christianity can exist.	Christianity can exist and flourish.	Christianity

1. Separation of Church / Religion and State was **unknown** in the ANE & Greco-Roman world.

This was and is true of many countries – maybe even most countries / ethnic groups.

2. Separation of Church / Religion and State was **unthinkable** in the ANE & Greco-Roman world.

The god / gods were almost always **connected to / with an ethnic group.**

The very identity of people groups identified and connected the god(s), king, and people together!

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; **and against all the gods of Egypt** I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Numbers 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: **upon their gods also** the LORD executed judgments.

Jeremiah 43:13 He shall break also the images of Beth-shemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and **the houses of the gods of the Egyptians** shall he burn with fire.

Judges 10:6 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, **and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines,** and forsook the LORD, and served not him.

1 Kings 20:23 And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, **Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.**

2 Kings 18:17 And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field. **2 Kings 18:18** And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder. **2 Kings 18:19** And Rab-shakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, **What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? 2 Kings 18:20** Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. **Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? 2 Kings 18:21** Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him. **2 Kings 18:22** **But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? 2 Kings 18:23** Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. **2 Kings 18:28** Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria: **2 Kings 18:29** Thus saith the king, **Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand: 2 Kings 18:30** **Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. 2 Kings 18:31** **Hearken not to Hezekiah:** for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern: **2 Kings 18:32** **Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. 2 Kings 18:33** **Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 2 Kings 18:34** **Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand? 2 Kings 18:35** **Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand? 2 Kings 18:36** But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.

[See the story also in 2 Chronicles 31 and Isaiah 36]

1 Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; **1 Kings 11:2** Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. **1 Kings 11:3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. **1 Kings 11:4** For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. **1 Kings 11:5** **For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 1 Kings 11:6** And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. **1 Kings 11:7** **Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 1 Kings 11:8** **And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. 1 Kings 11:9** And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, **1 Kings 11:10** And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. **1 Kings 11:11** Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. **1 Kings 11:12** Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. **1 Kings 11:13** Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

3. Separation of Church / Religion and State was not part of Israel's heritage and purpose.

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, **Exodus 20:2** **I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**

Deuteronomy 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. **Deuteronomy 5:2** The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. **Deuteronomy 5:3** The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. **Deuteronomy 5:4** The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire, **Deuteronomy 5:5** (I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying, **Deuteronomy 5:6** **I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

Deuteronomy 6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: **Deuteronomy 6:2** That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. **Deuteronomy 6:3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.