

424 An old promise of blessing

In the midst of all the current talk of vaccines and a possible return to “normal life”, the impeachment acquittal of former president Donald Trump by the American Senate has slipped through with little attention. With this closure of the recent “Trump era” it is now timely to consider the Trump presidency in the light of God’s Word.

For a start there is no denying that Donald Trump is an obviously sinful man whose flaws of character and conduct are plain to see. But intriguingly there is more to this man than just a roving eye for the latest attractive woman or the latest smart deal. Somehow, from somewhere, and for all his evident failings, Donald Trump possesses a degree of scriptural understanding which he has applied with some success during his term of office. Perhaps this biblical awareness came in part from his Hebridean mother, whose Bible the new President used as he took the oath of office in January 2017.

Donald Trump’s tendencies towards scripturally-based social conservatism helps to account for why 75 million Americans voted for his re-election as President in November 2020. Many of these voters are described in the mainstream media (MSM) as “evangelical Christians”; a more accurate description would be “those millions who still take the Bible seriously as God’s Word and seek to put its teachings into practice in personal and national life” (egs., Psalm 119.41-48 / Matthew 4.4 & parallels (from Deuteronomy 8.3b) / II Timothy 3.16-17 / Hebrews 4.12-13). Trump’s scriptural adherence, even though limited, also explains why members of the “liberal Left” in the Democrat Party loathe him and have longed to be rid of him. So far - at least for the time being - they have succeeded.

One example of Trump’s pro-scriptural, against-the-liberal-tide, approach involves his tackling the appalling scourge of mass abortions in the United States, via various rule changes and funding alterations; (we are told there have been approximately 67 million abortions in the USA since 1973 // Psalm 139.13-16 / Mark 10.13-16 & parallels). Just as importantly he has also appointed socially-conservative members to the Supreme Court, giving it a conservative majority for the first time for many years - an apparently minor change of personnel which is likely to have a lasting effect upon the nation’s social policies in the future.

Another example of Trump’s pro-scriptural policy involves Israel and the Middle East, a crucial part of the world with seemingly intractable

problems. The Trump administration made genuine efforts to “sort this mess” for once and for all, by stepping round the “Palestinians” and talking directly with leaders of more moderate Sunni Arab countries in the region, whose common enemy was and is Shi-ite Iran. This has led to diplomatic recognition of Israel by the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, with other Arab nations likely to follow suit – a massive change of fact and mood in the political landscape of the Middle East.

Furthermore Trump moved the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May 2018, a policy long proposed by the United States but always postponed by previous Presidents. He also appointed, amidst much eyebrow-raising, his son-in law to sort out a comprehensive peace plan between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), and against all expectations this was duly done. In line with previous peace efforts, this peace plan was accepted by Israel but was rejected instantly by Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestine Authority, despite it offering far more land and aid to the PA than anyone would ever have expected; we might ask why this kneejerk rejection?

From such examples, amid others, we see that President Trump has indeed shown some obedience to God’s Word. Regarding in particular his overt support for Israel, the Lord’s old, simple promise to Abram and his seed in Genesis 12.3 comes to mind – “And I will bless them that bless thee ...”. To date, as far as we can tell, Donald Trump has not yet been blessed in this way, being still regarded instead within much “establishment opinion” as a despised failure. But we do well to “keep an eye” on the situation for, when all is said and done, Donald Trump used his powerful office to bless Israel – and we know that the Lord God stands by His promises and keeps His Word.

So - shocking as it may seem to some! - there are some genuine grounds for our thanking the Lord for President Trump. We pray for the United States and its new Administration (I Timothy 2.1-6); we continue to pray for “the peace of Jerusalem”, mindful of all the blessings that that peace will involve (Psalm 122); and we might pray too for Donald Trump with his wife and family, realising that the Lord may well have not dispensed with “the Trump phenomenon” just yet.

2021 Faithful Sheep Ministries – www.fsmins.org