

**The Book of 1 Peter**

Chapter 2 Part 2, Verses 13-25

“...For to this you were called...”

Return To  
All Commentary

**In the original draft of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote:**

*“We hold these truths to be self evident; that all men are **CREATED** equal; that they are endowed by their **CREATOR** with certain inalienable rights...”*

**Jefferson finished his draft of the Declaration with:**

*“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of **divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”*

**There has been a great debate in our government as to whether God has any place in American Government.**

- ⊖ **Well I have news:** The men that framed the constitution, and wrote the Declaration of Independence, had no doubts that the only way that we could have become a free and independent nation, was because the Lord of Heaven caused us to be.
- ⊖ **As you read through the comments** of those who founded America, it is absolutely clear that a majority of them loved the Lord Jesus with all of their heart.
- ⊖ **American came into existence** because the Lord wanted it to be so. He brought us into existence because there were men who were praying in line with His will to raise up a powerful Godly nation that He could use to help the whole world.

**In 1630, John Winthrop, Governor of Massachusetts wrote:**

*“For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword throughout the world”.*

**Sadly, today, we are dealing falsely with our God. We have forgotten Him, just as Israel did in her past.**

We have removed Him from our schools, our Government, Our Homes and our hearts...

As a result, We are no longer **“A City upon a hill for the whole world to see the Glory of God”**

Instead, we have become a by word, a story, an example of what happens when any nation or people forget the Lord our God.

**Grover Cleveland, 22<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States said:**

*“A Government for the people must depend for its success on the intelligence, morality, the justice, and the interest of the people themselves”*

This year, the United States of America, with her brave young men and women, liberated a country that has held more than 20 million people in terror, slavery and fear of death for more than 30 years.

- ☞ **Today they are a free people**, because of the bravery and steadfastness of men and women like my son Robert.

And though the Lord said: *“To whom much is given, much is required...”* and as the Lord has surely given to us the power and wealth to liberate these precious people of Iraq, today many feel that we should have never gone there.

- ☞ **Are These “Nay Sayers” not aware** that our very power, our very existence is because of an Awesome God, who raised us up for just such a time as this, to liberate the Iraqi people.

This is the topic of 1 Peter chapter 2 this morning: **Why do the Governments of this world exist, and by what power and by what plan do they exist?**

**1 Peter 2**

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,

14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

**Paul also said the same thing in Romans chapter 13**

**Romans 13:1-5**

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

**Did you know that the governments of this earth exist by the will and plan of the Lord?**

- ☞ **There is no city**, no nation that has over it, any person, that the Lord did not will to be in their place.
- ☞ **He chooses some to rule** because of their Godly reverence for Him.
- ☞ **He chooses others** to be in authority so that He might show His own great strength and power through them.

**In the Book of Daniel:**

The entire nation of Israel had been carried off to Babylon, as the Lord allowed their enemies to destroy them because they also had forgotten the Lord.

**Daniel is one of the choice young men that had been selected to serve Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, in his palace.**

One night, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in which he saw a great statue, Daniel was called on to ask his God what the dream meant:

### **Daniel 2:31-33**

31 **Daniel speaking:** “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor *was* excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 **This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,**

33 **its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay**

The dream had so terrified the king of Babylon, that he called for his magicians to tell him what the dream meant. None of them could interpret what the dream meant.

- ☞ **They called for Daniel to be brought in,** as he was known as one that The Lord had given the ability to interpret dreams.
- ☞ **Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar** that the Great statue represented the kingdoms of the world.
  1. **The Head of Gold** was He, Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon.
  2. **The Chest and Arms of Silver** represented Cyrus the Great, The Medes and Persian empire that would come after Nebuchadnezzar.
  3. **The Belly and thighs of Bronze** represented Alexander the Great and the Greeks that would rule the world after Cyrus.
  4. **The Legs of Iron** picturing the Roman Empire that would then follow...
  5. **The ten toes** representing the revived Roman empire of the antichrist that will be in power when Jesus returns to earth with us, after the 7 year great tribulation.

When Nebuchadnezzar heard this, that he would be losing his kingdom to the Medes and Persians, he was not having any of this: **“I am not going to lose my kingdom to anyone, he thought.”** So Nebuchadnezzar had a great statue of his own built, made entirely of Gold.

Remember, in the dream, Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom was represented by the Head of Gold...

- ☞ **In essence,** by making an entire statue out of Gold, Nebuchadnezzar was saying to the Lord: *“I reject your claim that you bring the nations into power you choose, for your own plans and purposes, I am never going to lose my kingdom, so I am declaring it by making a stature entirely out of Gold.”*

**In the next few verses, we see just what the Lord thinks of any persons claim that they rule by their own will and power:** After Nebuchadnezzar made the statue of Gold, and declared his kingdom would never end, the Lord told Daniel to tell Nebuchadnezzar the following:

### **Daniel 4:24-25**

24 this is the interpretation, Daniel said: O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, **till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**

Because Nebuchadnezzar tried to defy the Lord by making the statue of Gold, he was driven out into the fields where he at Grass like a cow, for 7 years...**until he acknowledged that the Lord puts who He chooses into power, and removes who He chooses from power.**

### **Romans 13**

2 Therefore **whoever resists the authority (Of Government) resists the ordinance of God,** and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **In other words, if you keep the laws of the land, then you have nothing to fear...**

4 **For he is God's minister to you for good.** But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

**John and Jeanette and the other DPS officers that patrol our Highways, were placed there by Jesus Himself.** What does it say: *"He is Gods Minister to you for Good..."*

- ☞ **Remember that** the next time John has to give you a ticket for speeding! Jesus put him on the highway for your own good.
- ☞ **If you don't break the law,** Paul said, then you don't have anything to worry about...

**The Lord can even raise up someone like the Pharaoh of Egypt and put him into power, just so that He can use him as an example of His power.**

### **Exodus 5:1-2**

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'"

2 And Pharaoh said, **"Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.**

Why would the Lord put into power someone who doesn't know Him, is stubborn and evil in his own heart?

### Exodus 10:1-2

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “**Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart** and the hearts of his officials **so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them**

2 **that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD.**”

Pharaoh already had a Hardened heart, the Lord, by the signs and wonders that Moses did in his sight, simply confirmed the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart.

- ⊞ **The Lord put Pharaoh into power**, just so that He could show how great His power is, even when leaders and governments do not know Him or serve him.
- ⊞ **The point is**, Jesus is the Sovereign God of the Universe, His plans and purposes are fulfilled by the men and women He places into positions of power and authority.
- ⊞ **Sometimes through a Righteous leader**, sometimes through an unrighteous leader.

The Lord raised up a pagan king of Persia by calling him by name 150 years before he was born.

### Isaiah 44:28

The Lord, who says of Cyrus, “He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ And to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”

When Isaiah wrote this, Cyrus had not even been born...Later, Daniel showed this prophecy to Cyrus after he came into power...

### Daniel 1:21

Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King **Cyrus**.

- ⊞ **Daniel showed Cyrus** Isaiah’s prophecy where the Lord called Cyrus name before he was born and said that “*He shall be his anointed, His shepherd*”, to release His people the Jews and allow them to go back home again.
- ⊞ **Cyrus was so impressed** with this prophecy that he did exactly what the Lord had said that he would do.

### Isaiah 45:1

“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:

Babylon had never been defeated, because they lived in a city with walls that were impossible to penetrate.

- ☞ **Many bible commentators** and scholars make an error here assuming that Babylon was destroyed by King Cyrus and the Persian army.
- ☞ **Actually**, when Cyrus came against Babylon, **he took the city without a battle.**

**The city of Babylon was considered to be impossible to capture because of the awesome structure of the city.**

- 1 The walls of Babylon were 87 feet thick.
- 2 They were 300 Feet High.
- 3 There were 250 towers stationed on the walls around the perimeter of Babylon with Guards.
- 4 The Euphrates river flowed right through and under Babylon, creating a water barrier outside of the huge walls.

**Toward the end of September**, the armies of **Cyrus**, under the able command of **Ugbaru**, district governor of Gutium, attacked **Opis** on the Tigris River and defeated the Babylonians. **This gave the Persians control of the vast canal system of Babylon.**

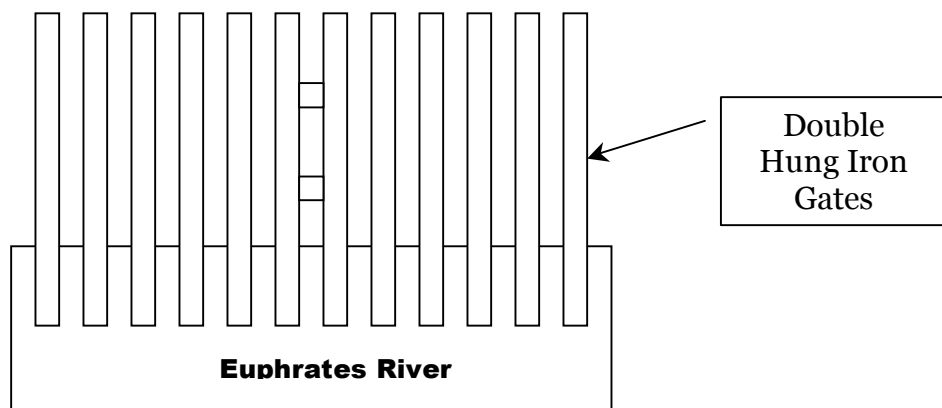
- ☞ **When Cyrus came** to take the city of Babylon, he sent men to the north of Babylon and had them build diversion canals from the Euphrates river.
- ☞ **They channeled** away the largest part of the Euphrates river that flowed into Babylon.

**On October 10**, two cities near Babylon, the city of Sippar was taken without a battle, the leaders of the city of Nabonidus fled.

- ☞ **The Greek Historian Herodotus** describes how the Cyrus men diverted the River Euphrates into a canal up-river so that the water level dropped “to the height of the middle of a man’s thigh,”.
- ☞ **This made the Euphrates river useless** and enabled Cyrus army to march through the river bed to enter by night right underneath the Gates to the city of Babylon! (Herodotus 1.191).

☞

**At the entrance to the city gate of Babylon, were large double hung iron gates that went all the way down into Euphrates river**



**on October 12, 539 B.C, Cyrus General, Ugbaru took his troops and were able to enter Babylon without a battle.**

- **The soldiers went in under the gates and opened them**, bringing Cyrus and His invasion force into Babylon
- **It was 3 days before** the people of Babylon even realized that their city had been taken.

**What did the Lord say to Cyrus in Isaiah 45?**

### **Isaiah 45:1-2**

1 “Thus says the LORD to His anointed, **To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:**

2 “I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; **I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.**

The Lord had predicted almost 200 years in advance, “Cyrus would open the Gates”, Cyrus hadn’t even been born yet!

- ☞ **The tradition** is that Cyrus was brought this prophecy of Isaiah after he had taken the city of Babylon by Daniel.
- ☞ **Imagine what Cyrus must have thought** when he read this. *“I will open the double doors so that the gates will not be shut...”* “Hey that is exactly what we did!”

**The night that this all happened, is recorded in the book of 2 Chronicles and Daniel**

### **2 Chronicles 36:22-23**

22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

23 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: **All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!**

The point of all of this is to show to you that every microsecond of our time here on the earth is under the power of the Lord.

- ☞ **We might label ourselves “Republican” or “Democrat”.**
- ☞ **We might vote** for the man or woman that **we feel** will do the best job in our government.
- ☞ **We exercise our right to choose everyday**, but God is still sovereign in ever affair of mankind.
- ☞ **Nothing happens** that He is not in control of.

**So when Peter instructs here in 1 Peter chapter 2:**

**1 Peter 2**

13 **Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake,**  
whether to the king as supreme,  
14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the  
praise of those who do good.

**When Paul says in Romans 13**

**Romans 13:1-5**

1 **Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.** For there is no authority except  
from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

**It means that if we rebel against what the government tells us to do, we are  
rebellious against the Lord, because He says that He is the One that put them there.**

- ☞ **If you go past the 75 mile per hour speed limit,** you are not just breaking the law  
of the land, **you are rebelling against the Lord!**
- ☞ **If you cheat on your income tax,** **you are cheating the Lord.**
- ☞ **If you speak in a negative way** about the president or our government, then **you  
are speaking against the Lord,** because He says He puts into office who He  
chooses.

**That is probably why Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes:**

**Ecclesiastes 5:2**

Do not be rash with your mouth,  
And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.  
For God is in heaven, and you on earth;  
Therefore let your words be few.

**So, in our study this morning, Peter writes to remind us to be careful what we say  
about the people in government, and to acknowledge that the Lord places those He  
chooses into power and authority**

- ☞ **When we choose a president** this coming November, our choice should be in line  
with the One The Lord Would Choose.
- ☞ **A Man** who is seeking to follow Jesus, His heart and His will.

**Then Peter moves on to show us another important fact: What we should use  
Freedom for:**

**1 Peter 2**

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish  
men—  
16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

**Did you know that We are free in Jesus, there is really nothing that is illegal for us, did you know that? BUT NOTICE THIS:**

### **1 Corinthians 6:12**

All things are lawful for me, **but all things are not helpful**. All things are lawful for me, **but I will not be brought under the power of any**.

- ☞ **I could** go out and drink all of the beer I want to.
- ☞ **The point is**, I just don't want to, it is not helpful to me in my walk with Jesus, and it may cause me to become a slave to it.
- ☞ **Jesus has made me free from that old life**, so why would I want to go back again and become a slave to alcohol, because make no mistake, alcohol does have the power to make you it's slave.

You see, real freedom is not just doing anything you want to do. Real freedom, the kind that Jesus died to give us, the freedom to live a Righteous life!

Just taking my freedom that Jesus has given to me and using to do whatever I want to do, could end up:

1. **Putting me back under slavery.**
2. **Cause another believer to stumble themselves.**

It is possible that if I felt that I had the right to have glass of beer or wine with my dinner, and I was at the Red lobster with Elsie, and **one of us who is here today, who had been delivered from addiction to alcohol, saw me drinking a beer or wine with my dinner, that By using my freedom, I could cause this precious brother or sister to stumble and even lose their faith in Jesus.**

### **1 Corinthians 8:9-13**

9 But **beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.**

11 ...because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, **you sin against Christ.**

13 Therefore, if food **or anything** makes my brother stumble, I will never again *partake of these things* , lest I make my brother stumble.

**You see, we have been called to a much higher standard than any other creation that has ever been made by the Lord.**

- ☞ **We are to be** Jesus Kings and Priests.
- ☞ **We are the ones** that will be reigning with Jesus during His 1,000 year kingdom of righteousness here on the earth, right after the 7 year Tribulation is over.
- ☞ **We will be judging** the angels.

*“To whom much is given, much is required...”*

**We can do anything, because nothing is forbidden for us who are free in Christ Jesus, but there is a higher law at work in our hearts:**

*“What could my exercise of my freedom in Christ cost someone else?”*

### **1 Corinthians 6:12**

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

### **1 Corinthians 10:23**

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

### **1 Corinthians 10:27-31 NLT**

27 If someone who isn't a Christian asks you home for dinner, go ahead; accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you and don't ask any questions about it. Your conscience should not be bothered by this.

28 But suppose someone warns you that this meat has been offered to an idol. Don't eat it, **out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you.**

29 **It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person. Now, why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks?**

30 If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it?

31 **Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, you must do all for the glory of God.**

So, being Free in Jesus, but using my freedom in such a way that I stay free and do not become addicted again to anything, using freedom in such a way that I do not cause anyone else to stumble...

### **1 Peter 2**

17 Honor all people. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the king.

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

When this verse says *“Servants be submissive to your masters...”* It was talking about the fact that when Peter wrote this, many Christians were the servants or slaves of non believers.

- ☞ **A person during this time** that could not afford to take care of themselves or a person who had debts they could not repay, could sell themselves into servitude.
- ☞ **In other words,** become the slave of someone else to pay off their debt or just to take care of themselves.
- ☞ **Many Christians** during this time were the servant of another.

**In today's language, applying this to our present situation:** *“Employees, be submissive to your Employer...”*

**Now this is where we will really test ourselves as to whether or not we are BECOMING like Jesus:**

*“Be submissive to your BOSS with all fear, not only to the good and gentle BOSS, but also to the harsh BOSS.”*

- ☞ **You mean to tell me** that Jesus expects me to be a good employee and do my very best even when my BOSS is mean, nasty, hard to get along with and unfair?”

That is exactly what he means, **because remember who is really your boss**, Jesus is, and so **when you submit even to someone that is difficult, you are in reality, submitting yourself to Jesus authority** and doing it because of your love for Jesus.

### **1 Peter 2**

19 For **this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.**

20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 “Who committed no sin,  
Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

If, in any situation, when your boss, a friend, any person, treats you wrong, takes advantage of you, uses you, abuses you, says things about you...but you just patiently take it and do not seek to get back at them...

**...then you are acting the way Jesus acted when they beat Him, lied about Him, used Him, Abused Him...**

- ☞ **The worse they treated Jesus**, the sweeter He became.
- ☞ **Leaving behind for us, an example** of how we are to act when we are treated the same way.

*“...when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;*

*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed...”*

***For to this you were called...to lay down your life, even as Jesus laid down His life...***