
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is this: **Is it possible for government to produce “heaven on earth”?**

ILL: A little girl once asked her daddy, *“Do all fairy tales begin by saying, ‘Once upon a time ...’?”*

The father answered, *“No sweetheart. Some fairy tales begin by saying, ‘If I am elected to be your next president ...’”*

If you listen to what all the candidates are promising, it is truly amazing. They make it sound as if they (one man) can fix all the problems in society. They alone can solve all our problems.

But basically they’re promising the very same thing. If you elect them, they’ll be no worries about:

- Crime
 - Social Security
 - Health care
 - Long term care for the elderly
 - Day care for the children
 - Safe schools for the young kids
 - Affordable college for the grown kids
 - Military defense
 - Job security
 - Inflation
 - Corruption
 - Foreign policy
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- They’re promising to be everything to everyone.
 - They’re promising to meet every imaginable need.
 - They’re promising a utopia.
 - They’re promising **HEAVEN!**

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE

Matthew 24:4-7

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

This is speaking about the problems Israel would be facing in the 1st century. This was not a prophecy of the end of time.

But I want you to see what is happening here.

"Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ'" – i.e., there are coming some politicians who will promise that they can fix everything. They will claim to have the answers to all your problems. They want you to trust them to be the leader.

"and they will deceive many" – i.e., they won't be able to deliver on their promises! Even with these great leaders in office:

- You will hear of wars and rumors of wars.
- Nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom.
- There will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes.

What the Lord was saying is that no earthly ruler (either then or now) can solve all the world's problems.

- 1) **There will always be poverty** (Mt 26:11)
- 2) **There will always be death** (Heb 9:27)
- 3) **There will always be insecurity and scarcity** (Prov 23:5)

HEAVEN IS NOT ON EARTH

The point of all this is: **Heaven is not going to be on this earth or in this lifetime.**

No candidate and no government is going to solve all our problems. We need to spend our time and energy on divine government rather than earthly governments.

Heaven in heaven is everything that we could hope for it to be. We need to take our eyes off this planet and look towards heaven. No earthly government can ever give us a heaven on earth.

Colossians 3:2

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20 “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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