

## #44: Good Citizens of Country and Kingdom

Monte F. Shelley, 20 Dec. 2009

### Quotes

- All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good en to do nothing.—Edmund Burke
- Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for.—Will Rogers
- When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators.—P. J. O'Rourke
- If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get.—Frank A. Clark
- Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master!—Washington

Timeline of Events Related to Government	
Pre	War in Heaven. Satan ... [said] I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, ... wherefore give me thine honor. ... Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man ... and also, that I should give unto him mine own power. (Moses 4:1–4)
OldT	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob: Self-defense (tribes) Joseph in Egypt: Pharaoh Moses: Theocracy (God made laws, appointed servants) Citizen → obey law, sustain & defend kingdom Samuel: Israelite King (prophet appointed, king covenants) Suzerain-Vassal treaties: kings (Babylon, Rome) Roman republic → Roman empire
BoM	Kings → Judges (voice of the people); Men seek power → stir up to anger → offensive war Men seek freedom → defend life, liberty, property
325	Marriage of Church and State (Council of Nicea).
410	Fall of Rome. The Catholic Church continued to be the established religion in most European countries and the pope retained power over or influence with kings.
1448	Gutenberg press invented. Latin Bible soon published.
1500	Protestant Reformation began. Catholics used government force (the Inquisition) to identify, torture, and kill Protestants heretics. In some cases, force was used to compel conversion to Christianity. When Protestants became the established religion in a country or state, they also developed creeds and used heresy laws to silence those who disagreed with them.
1611	King James Bible published. (~80% Tyndale's translation)
1620	Pilgrims came on the Mayflower to America
1776	Declaration of Independence: People's law vs. Ruler's law
1788	US Constitution ratified (republic, federalism, checks)
1789	Mar 4. Government under new constitution began
1820	First Vision; restoration of the gospel began
1833	Mobs drove Saints from Jackson County. D&C 98:5–11. That law of the land which is constitutional, supporting that principle of freedom in maintaining rights and privileges, belongs to all mankind, and is justifiable before me. ... Whatsoever is more or less than this, cometh of evil. ... <sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, when the wicked rule the people mourn. <sup>10</sup> Wherefore, honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold. (D&C 98:5–11) D&C 101:76–80: Seek redress from government officials. God "established the Constitution ... by the hands of wise men" "for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles; that every man may act ... according to the moral agency which I have given him ...

	[and] be accountable for his own sins."
1835	D&C 134 on governments and laws unanimously accepted.
1839	Mar. Joseph in Liberty Jail. "The Constitution of the United States is a glorious standard; it is founded in the wisdom of God. It is a heavenly banner" (HC 3:304).
1844	US Presidential candidates refused to stop persecution. Joseph ran for President of the United States. "I feel it to be my right and privilege to obtain what influence and power I can, lawfully, in the United States, for the protection of injured innocence; and if I lose my life in a good cause I am willing to be sacrificed on the altar of virtue, righteousness and truth, in maintaining the laws and Constitution of the United States, if need be, for the general good of mankind." (HC 6:210) Jun. Joseph murdered in Carthage.
1847	1847–1850. Saints governed by a type of theo-democracy using Church organization. Bishops presided over wards or districts.
1849	Provisional government of State of Deseret. Brigham elected governor and counselors were Lt. Gov & Sec of State. Other Church leaders appointed or elected. Bishops appointed as justices of the peace. Attempts for statehood blocked by slave states not wanting another "free state."
1850	Jun 15. Deseret News was first published.
1851	Provisional State of Deseret → Territory of Utah. Federal non-LDS appointees sent to govern.
1852	Brigham publically announced plural marriage. He said it was constitutional because of freedom of religion.
1861	Apr. Civil War began
1862	Congress passed the Morrill Act—the first anti-polygamy law. Lincoln signed it but did not enforce it.
1870	Utah liberal party formed by gentile businessmen. They controlled the Salt Lake Tribune. Mormons formed the People's Party.
1874	Poland Act passed, allowing for indictments of men involved in plural marriage. This act dismantled Utah's judicial system by giving the United States district courts (controlled by non-Mormon federal appointees) exclusive civil and criminal jurisdiction. Individuals could now be brought to trial for breaking the Morrill Law.
1875	George Reynolds convicted in "test case"
1877	Apr. Brigham's final conference talk. "I am opposed to free education as much as I am apposed to taking away property from one man and giving it to another who knows not how to take care of it. ... I now pay the school fees of a number of children who are either orphans or sons and daughters of poor people. But in aiding and blessing the poor I do not believe in allowing my charities to go through the hands of a set of robbers who pocket nine-tenths themselves, and give one-tenth to the poor. Therein is the difference between us; I am for the real act of doing and not saying. Would I encourage free schools by taxation? No!" (JD 18:357)
1879	US Supreme Court ruled anti-polygamy laws constitutional
1880	<b>John Taylor</b> sustained as third President of the Church
1882	Edmunds Act passed, intensifying anti-polygamy crusade
1885	President Taylor, other Church Authorities, and many members went "underground" to escape prosecution. Some settled in Mormon colonies in Mexico. Marion G. Romney and George W. Romney born there.

1887	Mar 3. Edmunds-Tucker Act became law. Prohibited polygamy and punished it with a fine and imprisonment. Required anti-polygamy oath for voters, jurors, and public officials. Women's right to vote abolished. Church disincorporated and property over \$50,000 seized. Perpetual Emigration Fund dissolved. Public education system established with seized assets. Many LDS men had to hide to avoid arrest. Homes raided at night. Jul 25. John Taylor died.		get something from the government ... with little hope of ever paying it back. I think this is all wrong.” Dec 5. Utah was last state needed to repeal prohibition.
1889	<b>Wilford Woodruff</b> , sustained as President	1934	<b>David O. McKay</b> became counselor in First Presidency
1890	May 19. Supreme Court upheld Edmunds-Tucker Act allowing Congress to dissolve the Church corporation and seize its properties “for the use ... of common schools” Jul–Aug. Liberal party won the Salt Lake school election and most of the elected offices in Salt Lake and Weber counties. Old police force fired, crime and immorality abounded, prostitution was supervised not suppressed, and graft was not curtailed. Aug. Woodruff learned that the U.S. government was going to confiscate the temples. Sept 24. Manifesto stopping plural marriage was approved and published next day. Oct 6. Manifesto unanimously accepted at Conference.	1939	Aug 24. First Presidency evacuated European missionaries
1891	Jun. People's Party officially disbanded. Most members became Democrats. Leaders wanted influence in both parties and encouraged many to become Republicans.	1941	Dec 7. Pearl Harbor attacked (US enters war in 1942)
1893	Liberal party lost control of Salt Lake City, and disbanded Congress passed law returning Church property. National financial panic.	1942	Apr. First Presidency position on war. Although “hate can have no place in the souls of the righteous,” the Saints “are part of the body politic” and must loyally obey those in authority over them. Elder Harold B. Lee chairman of Church Servicemen's Committee. Army and navy were reluctant to appoint chaplains who were not professional clergymen. By end of war 46 had served. Soldiers did missionary work. Food storage used because of government gas rationing, wage & price controls, and food shortages. Donations to Red Cross and to help soldiers and their families.
1894	Jul. Congress passed the Utah Enabling Act. Utahans worked on a state constitution acceptable to Congress. It prohibited plural marriage, established public schools, and ensured the complete separation of church and state.	1945	May – Apr 1951. <b>George Albert Smith</b> , president Aug. World War II ended Fall. Church sent relief supplies to Europe.
1896	Jan 4. Utah became a state. Apr. Church issued the Political Manifesto.	1946	Jan 14. Elder Ezra Taft Benson to reopen European missions. He supervised distribution of relief supplies.
1898	Sept 2. Wilford Woodruff died. Sept 13. <b>Lorenzo Snow</b> became President. B. H. Roberts elected to Congress but not seated because he was a polygamist. After 15 months he was expelled.	1951	Apr – Jan 1970. <b>David O. McKay</b> , president*
1900	Reed Smoot ordained an Apostle. He was not a polygamist	1952	Elder Benson, Secretary of Agriculture (1952–1961)
1903	Republican Reed Smoot elected to US Senate. Served during 4 year investigation. He was senator for 30 years.	1966	Apr. Marion G. Romney: “Is Socialism the United Order?” “The United Order can never function under socialism or ‘the welfare state,’ ... [because] the principles upon which socialism and the United Order are conceived and operated are inimical.”
1904	Democrat national platform attacked Mormonism → many Mormons switched to the Republican Party.	1968	Ezra Taft Benson: “The Proper Role of Government”
1917	US entered World War I. Utahans bought 50% more liberty bonds than quota. Church provided food for starving people in Europe. Joseph F. Smith said that even in war the people should maintain “the spirit of humanity, of love, and of peace-making.” He instructed prospective soldiers to remember that they were “ministers of life and not of death; and when they go forth, they may go forth in the spirit of defending the liberties of mankind rather than for the purpose of destroying the enemy.” (CH #37)	1970	Jan – Jul 1972. <b>Joseph Fielding Smith</b> , president
1918	Nov 23. <b>Heber J. Grant</b> became President	1972	Jul – Dec 1973. <b>Harold B. Lee</b> , president
1919	Jan 16. Prohibition amendment ratified. HJG supported it.	1973	Dec – Nov 1985. <b>Spencer W. Kimball</b> , president
1929	Oct 29. Stock market crash led to Great Depression	1976	<b>Spencer W. Kimball</b> : “The False Gods We Worship” “We are a warlike people, easily distracted from our assignment of preparing for the coming of the Lord. When enemies rise up, we commit vast resources to the fabrication of gods of stone and steel—ships, planes, missiles, fortifications—and depend on them for protection and deliverance. When threatened, we become anti-enemy instead of pro-kingdom of God; we train a man in the art of war and call him a patriot, thus, in the manner of Satan's counterfeit of true patriotism, perverting the Savior's teaching: Love your enemies. ...”
1933	<b>J. Reuben Clark</b> , counselor in First Presidency (1933-61) Oct. <b>HJG</b> : Many people have said ... ‘Well, others are getting some [government relief], why should not I? ... There is a growing disposition among the people to try to	1980	ETB: “Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet”
		1985	Nov – May 1994. <b>Ezra Taft Benson</b> , president
		1987	Sept 17. Bicentennial of Constitutional Convention ETB: “The Constitution—A Glorious Standard” at BYU
		1994	May – Mar 1995. <b>Howard W. Hunter</b> , president
		1995	Mar – Jan 2008. <b>Gordon B. Hinckley</b> , president
		<b>1. Prohibition Amendment (1919–1933)</b> During the 1920s bishops interviewing members who wanted to enter the temple were asked to encourage them to comply with the principles in the Word of Wisdom. The Church also used its publications, especially the <i>Improvement Era</i> , to campaign against the use of tobacco. Many articles appealed to both scientific authority and Church doctrine to promote abstinence from both liquor and tobacco. Church leaders also urged anti-tobacco legislation, including the banning of advertising cigarettes on billboards. President Grant frequently preached against smoking and the consumption of liquor and firmly supported strict	

enforcement of the law. He even insisted that the *Deseret News* officially support Prohibition enforcement. Moreover, the Church provided financial aid to the Prohibition League.

When Prohibition was in effect, there were strong forces working for its repeal. In spite of the vigorous support of the Church and public knowledge that President Grant stood unalterably behind Prohibition, Utah became the thirty-sixth state to vote for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. Ironically, it was this affirmative vote that ended Prohibition. President Grant publicly expressed his disappointment that Church members had not followed his lead or his counsel. Had they done so, he insisted, much of the suffering, sorrow, spiritual degeneration, and deterioration of physical health that accompany the consumption of liquor and tobacco, could have been avoided. (CH #38)

**George Albert Smith:** There are thousands ... who would walk any distance ... [to see] the Prophet of the Lord, and yet there are many of our own people who disregard his council. From this very stand he pleaded with us not to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. ... He didn't speak as Heber J. Grant, the man. He spoke as the President of the Church and the representative of our Heavenly Father. And yet in a state where we could have retained what we had, there were enough Latter-day Saints, so-called (some of them hold positions in the Church, or did at that time), who paid no attention to what the Lord wanted, ignored what He had said through his prophet, and what is the result? Such delinquency as we have never known is in our own community today, and the sons and daughters and grandchildren, and in many cases the fathers and mothers, who defied the advice of our Heavenly Father and said "We will do as we please," are paying the penalty and will continue to do so until they turn away from their foolishness and desire with all their hearts to do what our Heavenly Father desires us to do. (CR Oct. 1943, 47)

## 2. Proper Role of Government (Ezra Taft Benson 1968)

My attitude toward government is succinctly expressed by the following provision taken from the Alabama Constitution: "That the sole object and only legitimate end of government is to protect the citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and when the government assumes other functions it is usurpation and oppression." (Art. 1, Sec. 35.)

An important test I use in passing judgment upon an act of government is this: If it were up to me as an individual to punish my neighbor for violating a given law, would it offend my conscience to do so? Since my conscience will never permit me to physically punish my fellow man unless he has done something evil, or unless he has failed to do something which I have a moral right to require of him to do, I will never knowingly authorize my agent, the government, to do this on my behalf. ...

When I give my consent to the adoption of a law, I specifically instruct the police—the government—to take either the life, liberty, or property of anyone who disobeys that law. Furthermore, I tell them that if anyone resists the enforcement of the law, they are to use any means necessary—yes, even putting the lawbreaker to death or putting him in jail—to overcome such resistance. These are extreme measures but unless laws are enforced, anarchy results. ...

As George Washington warned, "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master!" It is an instrument of force and unless our conscience is clear that we would not hesitate to put a man to death, put him in jail or forcibly deprive him of his property for failing to obey a given law, we should oppose it. ...

There are times when this principle of the proper role of government is most annoying and inconvenient. If I could only force the ignorant to provide for themselves, or the selfish to be generous with their wealth! ...

Once government steps over this clear line between the protective or negative role into the aggressive role of redistributing the wealth and providing so-called "benefits" for some of its citizens, it then becomes a means for what he accurately described as legalized plunder. It becomes a lever of unlimited power which is the sought-after prize of unscrupulous individuals and pressure groups, each seeking to control the machine to fatten his own pockets or to benefit its favorite charities—all with the other fellow's money, or course.

## 3. Our Duties as Saints and Citizens

**Ezra Taft Benson:** At this bicentennial celebration we must, with sadness, say that we have not been wise in keeping the trust of our Founding Fathers. For the past two centuries, those who do not prize freedom have chipped away at our Constitution until today we face a crisis of great dimensions. We are fast approaching that moment prophesied by Joseph Smith when he said:

"Even this nation will be on the very verge of crumbling to pieces and tumbling to the ground, and when the Constitution is upon the brink of ruin, this people will be the staff upon which the nation shall lean, and they shall bear the Constitution away from the very verge of destruction."

Will we be prepared? Will we be among those who will "bear the Constitution away from the very verge of destruction?" If we desire to be numbered among those who will, here are some things we must do:

1. *We must be righteous and moral.* We must live the gospel principles—all of them. We have no right to expect a higher degree of morality from those who represent us than what we ourselves exhibit. To live a higher law means we will not seek to receive what we have not earned by our own labor. It means we will remember that government owes us nothing. It means we will keep the laws of the land. It means we will look to God as our Lawgiver and the Source of our liberty.

2. *We must learn the principles of the Constitution and then abide by its precepts.* Have we read the Constitution and pondered it? Are we aware of its principles? Could we defend it? Can we recognize when a law is constitutionally unsound?

I quote Abraham Lincoln: "Let [the Constitution] be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling-books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And ... let it become the political religion of the nation."

3. *We must become involved in civic affairs.* As citizens of this republic, we cannot do our duty and be idle spectators. It is vital that we follow this counsel from the Lord: "Honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these cometh of evil." (D&C 98:10.)

Note the qualities that the Lord demands in those who are to represent us. They must be good, wise, and honest. We must be concerted in our desires and efforts to see men and women represent us who possess all three of these qualities—goodness, wisdom, and honesty.

4. *We must make our influence felt by our vote, our letters, and our advice.* We must be wisely informed and let others know how we feel. We must take part in local precinct meetings and select delegates who will truly represent our feelings.

("The Constitution—A Glorious Standard," *Ensign*, Sep 1987, 6)

#### 4. Fourteen Fundamentals of Following the Prophet

1. The prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything.
2. The living prophet is more vital to us than the standard works.
3. The living prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet.
4. The prophet will never lead the Church astray.
5. The prophet is not required to have any particular earthly training or credentials to speak on any subject or act on any matter at any time.
6. The prophet does not have to say "Thus saith the Lord" to give us scripture.
7. The prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know.
8. The prophet is not limited by men's reasoning.
9. The prophet can receive revelation on any matter, temporal or spiritual.
10. The prophet may be involved in civic matters.
11. The two groups who have the greatest difficulty in following the prophet are the proud who are learned and the proud who are rich.
12. The prophet will not necessarily be popular with the world or the worldly.
13. The prophet and his counselors make up the First Presidency—the highest quorum in the Church.
14. The living prophet and the First Presidency—follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer.

I testify that these fourteen fundamentals in following the living prophet are true. If we want to know how well we stand with the Lord, then let us ask ourselves how well we stand with His mortal captain. How closely do our lives harmonize with the words of the Lord's anointed—the living prophet ... and with the Quorum of the First Presidency? (Ezra Taft Benson, 1980, [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu))

If my people will hearken unto my voice, and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, ... they shall not be moved out of their place. But if they will not hearken to my voice, nor unto the voice of these men whom I have appointed, they shall not be blest. ... With my servant Almon Babbitt, there are many things with which I am not pleased; behold, he aspireth to establish his counsel instead of the counsel ... of the Presidency of my Church. (D&C 124:45–46, 84)

#### Quotes

**Harold B. Lee:** The kingdom of God must be a continuing revolution against the norms of the society that fall below the standards that are set for us in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the field of public life, it must be a continuing revolution against proposals that contradict the fundamental principles as laid down in the Constitution of the United States, which was written by men whom God raised up for this very purpose. If we remember that, we will be in the forefront of every battle against the things that are tearing down our society. (CR Oct 1970)

**John Taylor:** "What is the first thing necessary to the establishment of his kingdom? It is to raise up a Prophet and have him declare the will of God; the next is to have people yield obedience to the word of the Lord through that Prophet. If you cannot have these, you never can establish the kingdom of God upon the earth." [*JD* 6:25; see also *The Gospel Kingdom*, 214]

**Harold B. Lee:** We have some tight places to go before ... this ... last dispensation, which shall usher in the coming of the Lord. ... The power of Satan will increase. ... We will see those who profess membership but secretly are plotting and trying to lead people not to follow the leadership that the Lord has set up to preside in this church. Now the only safety we have as members of this church is ... to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through his prophet, "as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me ... as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith." (D&C 21:4-5.) There will be some things that take patience and faith. You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may contradict your political views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord himself, with patience and faith, the promise is that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory." (D&C 21:6.) ... He knows whom he wants to preside over this church, and he will make no mistake. The Lord doesn't do things by accident. He has never done anything accidentally. (CR Oct. 1970, 3<sup>rd</sup> day afternoon)

**Ezra Taft Benson:** I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society. (See D&C 1:14–16; 84:49–53) It is more highly organized, more cleverly disguised, and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations lusting for power, gain, and glory are flourishing. A secret combination that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world. (See Ether 8:18–25) ("I Testify," *Ensign*, Nov 1988, 86)

**Ezra Taft Benson:** We have not been using the Book of Mormon as we should. Our homes are not as strong unless we are using it to bring our children to Christ. Our families may be corrupted by worldly trends and teachings unless we know how to use the book to expose and combat falsehoods in socialism, rationalism, etc. ... The situation in the world will continue to degenerate unless we read and heed the words of God and quit building up and upholding secret combinations, which the Book of Mormon tells us proved the downfall of ancient civilizations. (*Ensign*, Jan 1988)

**Neal A. Maxwell:** Discipleship includes good citizenship. In this connection, if you are a careful student of the statements of the modern prophets, you will have noticed that with rare exceptions—especially when the First Presidency has spoken out—the concerns expressed have been over moral issues, not issues between political parties. The declarations are about principles, not people; and causes, not candidates. On occasions, at other levels in the Church, a few have not been so discreet, so wise, or so inspired. ...

In the months and years ahead, events are likely to require each member to decide whether or not he will follow the First Presidency. Members will find it more difficult to halt longer between two opinions. (See 1 Kgs. 18:21.)

President Marion G. Romney said ... he had "never hesitated to follow the counsel of the Authorities of the Church even though it crossed my social, professional or political life" (CR Apr. 1941, 123). This is a hard doctrine, but it is a particularly vital doctrine in a society which is becoming more wicked. In short ... not being ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ includes not being ashamed of the prophets of Jesus Christ! (*Ensign*, Feb. 1979)