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| mamlaka logo    **Series: My faith, my vote** | **Mamlaka Hill Chapel**  *“ Empowered to Transform Lives, Society, and the World”*  R.E.A.LGroup Study for the Week of 14th May to 20th May 2017  **Sermon: “Principles of engagement”** |

**ICE BEAKER**

Try and recall the last time you voted. What thoughts crossed your mind? How did you feel when the results came in?

1. **God is** **Sovereign over the kingdoms of the earth. (Read Ps. 50:7 – 12, Col. 1:15 – 20)**

These Biblical texts (and others) make clear God’s ownership and control over His world, which certainly includes all existing authority structures, whether in the physical or spiritual realm. This means that even governments that are put in place through a democratic process are under the Sovereign control of God.

1. What are some of the indications that we often neglect this truth, proving with our actions that we don’t think of God as a key player in our politics?
2. In what practical ways do you think a Christian would be radically different in the way they approach politics if they truly embraced this truth?
3. **God appoints ordinary men and women to establish His rule on earth. (Read 2 Chron. 1:7 – 13, Dan. 2:19 – 23, 2 Chron. 36:22 – 23, Isaiah 44:28 – 45:6)**

God gives authority to people to wield it on His behalf, so that they can extend His rule on earth. Therefore, our leadership must reflect His priorities since we only wield delegated authority.

1. What do you think it would take for us to exhibit the kind of humility that Solomon had towards his authority and leadership responsibility over Israel?
2. **God’s sovereignty does not replace or contradict human responsibility. (Read Nehemiah 1:1 – 11)**

Nehemiah immediately goes into prayer when he hears about the state of Jerusalem. He affirms God’s sovereignty, confesses his sins and those of Israel, then seeks God’s favor for when he goes to speak to the king about what he intended to do for his people. Nehemiah shows us that the sovereignty of God over the affairs of a nation do not in any way make void our efforts in attempting to effect change.

1. Discuss possible guidelines for how we can properly respond to news we receive from media outlets concerning the affairs of our country.
2. Each one of us bears some responsibility for our nation. Have members share the specific roles they think they can play, and what actions they have taken or intend to take.
3. As a civil servant, Nehemiah is a shining model of the kind of impact men and women yielded to God in the pursuit of His purposes can have.
   1. What role can Christians play in ensuring that we have more ‘Nehemiahs’ in our government?
   2. How does the example of Nehemiah challenge you to attempt great things for God’s glory and His people’s sale in your own sphere of influence?

**Application and Prayer**

**A healthy balance in government, church or family is found only when we allow God’s will to inform our collective actions and decisions through prayer. (Read 2 Chronicles 7: 11 -16)**

* Think through some of the sins that as Kenyans we have committed, and the individual roles we might have played in committing those sins. Take time as a group to confess these sins before God on our own behalf and on behalf of our country. Ask that God would help us turn from them in genuine repentance.
* Commit to begin praying more intentionally in various settings for our country; our families, in the REAL group, at work, in school, lunch time prayer meetings etc.
* Pray that God will help us discern His will as we join together in concerted prayer to chart a direction for our country.

**SCRIPTURES (NIV)**

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| **Psalm 50: 7 - 12**  ***A psalm of Asaph****.*  *7 “Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am God, your God. 8 I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. 9 I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, 10 for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. 12 If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? 14“Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, 15 and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”* | **Colossians 1:15 – 20**  ***The Supremacy of the Son of God***  *15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*  *17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.* |
| ***2 Chronicles 1:7 – 13***  *7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”*  *8 Solomon answered God, “You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”*  *11 God said to Solomon, “Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.” 13 Then Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting. And he reigned over Israel.*  **2 Chronicles 7:11-16**  *11 When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, 12 the Lord appeared to him at night and said:*  *"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. 13 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. 16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.*  **Nehemiah 1:1 – 11**  *1* *The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." 4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.*  *8 "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' 10 "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.* | **Dan. 2:19 – 23**  *19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven 20 and said: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.21 He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*  **2 Chronicles 36:22 - 23**  ***22****In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:* ***23****“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up, and may the LORD their God be with them.’ ”*  **Isaiah 44:28 – 45:6**  *28 who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.” ’*  *1 “This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: 2 I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. 3 I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.*  *4 For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, 6 so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. 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