

# Your Rights! Who Decides?

By Ariel Bar Tzadok

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You have rights! Don't you? But who decides what rights you have, and by what authority do you have them?

There is right and wrong in the world, but who defines which is which? What makes one thing moral, and another immoral? ***Are the definitions of right and wrong, moral and immoral totally subjective, and subject only to one's personal point of view?***

Do, you think that these are easy questions? Just ask any other individual, and you will find that, while many might agree with certain general principles that define morals, the devilish details of definition is where heated debate, and often violent dissent, is to be found.

In most countries, we have laws. Usually these laws are based upon some kind of legal document, or set of proclamations. In the United States, there is the US Constitution. This document, written only a little over 200 years ago, is the foundation that defines American liberties, and the rights enjoyed by its citizens. Or so Americans might think.

As any student of Constitutional law knows, words written on paper (or parchment), over time, become subject to interpretation, and one man's interpretation is most certainly not shared by his fellow. So then, when the founding document says one thing, the powers in charge can interpret what it says in any way they want, and proclaim that their way of thinking is still within the context of the wording of the founding document. ***There is no need to change the document, as long as what it means can be changed at will to accommodate the changing will of the powers that be.***

Some will declare this wrong and dishonest! But who is to say that they are right? Certainly not the interpreters from the other side of the debate. And ***even in the most progressive and liberal of western societies, might still does make right!*** Might can be in the courts, in government regulations and in the power to manipulate and control public opinion. Might no longer needs to be by force of arms. ***Why repress with force of arms, when the ever-pervasive and persuasive electronic media will even more effectively repress by force of persuasion?***

We declare one thing, and yet practice entirely another! We then proclaim that this new interpretation is what the original proclamation meant in the first place, and so we are taught in every forum imaginable! The masses never question! They usually just repeat and blindly follow what they are told is right and wrong!

So, here we go again! Who decides what is right and wrong? Who decides what rights we have, as individuals? You think you know! And all that you think matters little,

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because if the powers that be do not think like you, then the rights you think that you have quickly become defines as being wrongs!

Yes, ***what was once right is now left, eh, I mean, wrong!*** And oppositely, what was once wrong many now be considered right. All this is decided not by the founding documents based upon whatever authority a society has pledged to respect, but rather as defined by the powers that be, and their arbitrary definitions of how they wish to interpret their founding documents and redefine the authority which they once held in esteem.

You might think that I am talking about modern politics, and that I am describing modern political problems, and indeed, I am. However, ***this modern problem is certainly not modern, and its application is certainly not limited to politics.*** This very same problem has been going on for centuries, literally for millennia, within the arena of Biblical studies, and those who study it, and pledge to live by it.

The words of Moses, the Torah, is the founding document upon which Israelite society is based and built. In Biblical times, a Torah based society gave rise to the Davidic dynastic governments of Judah, and the Israelite governments of the Northern Kingdom. However, as later scripture records, both of these societies fundamentally changed the meanings of what Torah said, and by doing so, swerved their societies in directions that brought them out of sync with both the letter and spirit of what a clear and simple reading of the Torah intended.

Being that Torah is considered to be of Divine origins, the Voice of the Divine intervened through chosen messengers, prophets, to proclaim the Founder's original intent as to how Torah was to be interpreted and practiced. Yet, in spite of the Divine origins, many of the prophetic messengers were ignored, if not out-rightly silenced by government authorities. History documents the devastating results, the fall and loss of both governments and societies.

Ever since the fall of the Biblical-times societies and governments, many other societies have come to establish themselves on Biblical/Torah principles. However, many, while honoring the source by name, often reinterpret the source in accordance to their own wishes. Essentially, ***they honor one thing, yet practice another.*** This has become the reality of many different religions, their teachings and the societies that are based on them. They proclaim themselves as Biblically based. Yet, upon examination, it is easy to discover just how much of Biblical teachings are ignored, reinterpreted, and often out-rightly rejected.

The fifteenth century Italian thinker, Machiavelli wisely wrote the following. ***“Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past, for human events ever resemble those of preceding times. This arises from the fact that they are produced by men who ever have been, and ever shall be, animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same results.”***

We have seen many mighty nations and civilizations fall because they corrupted the moral and stable foundations upon which they were built. This is the natural outcome of all such corruption. One cannot continually weaken foundations without the eventuality of that which is built upon those foundations toppling and falling. This is just common sense. Unfortunately, **common sense is no longer common**, and, like Machiavelli said, **because we follow in the footsteps of past mistakes, we are destined to repeat them in the present and future.**

Human rights are not a yo-yo, to be given or taken by the whims of politicians or governments. Thomas Jefferson wrote in the US Declaration of Independence that **“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.”**

God is the author of human rights, not government. God gives that which governments take away. This is the way it has been in the past. Following in these same past footsteps, we can see where our future is leading.

Our unalienable Rights are those spelled out for us by God, in God's Word, the Torah that He gave to Moses.

When we seek to define right and wrong, moral and immoral, it is to God's Word that we turn. This is our eternal bedrock and foundation. No government or public policy, regardless of however popular it is, has the right to go against this. Who defines this right, and who has given this right to us? We believe and we proclaim that our rights come from, **“the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God.”**

From Biblical times to the present, from now and forever more, our rights and our responsibilities are defined for us by an authority that no man has the right to contradict. We are therefore obligated by God's decree to live moral and righteous lives, as defined by Divine edict. **What God has ordained, let no man tear asunder, or walk the path of the past into the future, we will!**

**“For your Maker is your Master,  
YHWH of Hosts is His name,  
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,  
shall be called the God of all the earth.”**

(Isaiah 54:5)

*Commentary to the Haftara (prophets reading) of Weekly Torah Portion, Ki Tetzei.*