

Transitions and Dynasties

Commentary for November 15, 2016 — Leaders Come, Leaders Go ... Dynasties End

Almost every political professional and newspaperman thought Hillary Clinton would defeat Donald Trump in the election for President of the United States on November 8, 2016. As I wrote in my October 2008 Commentary, "[Voting and God's Leaders: Man Proposes, God Disposes](#)," God's vote is the one that really matters. He is able to subtly arrange circumstances to put in power the person He wishes to rule or govern. This fact is true not just for Israel's leaders in ancient times, but for all nations throughout history.

When under threat of death by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to tell the king what his undisclosed dream meant, Daniel said this about YHWH:

"And he changes the times and the seasons: he removes kings, and sets up kings: he gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"

• *Daniel 2:21*

In Daniel 4:1, the King of Babylon wrote a remarkable letter to his subjects. It begins:

"Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you."

He tells of his experience of 7 years of madness that occurred to him. Then in Daniel 4:17, he says his experience had a purpose. It made him realize who was in charge:

"... that the living may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will, and sets up over it the basest of men."

The phrase "**basest of men**" means the lowliest of men. They are usually brilliant or accomplished people, but morally they are base. We should not expect saints to govern or rule nations. We will be disappointed if we expect otherwise.

"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, 'What do you?'"

• *Daniel 4:35 (see also Acts 17:26–27)*

The election in the United States held on November 8, 2016 dramatically changed the political course of the country. I expect the transition of governmental power from one political party and philosophy to another will be peaceful, as in the recent past.

In ancient history, a sweeping peaceful transfer of power was unusual, although it is increasingly common in modern times, at least in democracies and republics. For the United States, throughout the 227 years of governing under its 1789 Constitution, a peaceful transfer of power has been the norm. The sole exception was the election of 1860 that soon led to rebellion and the American Civil War.

Dynasties Ending in the United States

A previous political dynasty of the Kennedy family ended with the deaths of John Kennedy, Jr. in 1999 and the death of his uncle, Senator Edward Kennedy in 2009. Members of the Kennedy extended family have only local and limited influence in the eastern United States.

The November 8, 2016 United States national election saw the downfall of two other dynasties:

- The dynasty of the Bush family has become impotent with none of its family members currently in any important political or government positions. With Donald Trump's victory, the influence of the Bush family in the Republican Party is extremely low.
- The Clinton dynasty was defeated in the November election with neither Hillary Clinton nor former President Bill Clinton having any governmental post, and little hope for one in the future. Their political influence is diminished to almost nothing.

President Obama, though still personally popular, has no family members who would likely run for office within 4 years, although his wife Michelle Obama may do so later.

In fact, the current power of the Republicans in America is sweeping. They will control the White House, a majority in the U.S. Senate, and a majority in the House of Representatives in the Federal Government. On the state level, Republicans control 30 out of 50 governorships, and hold majorities in 69 of 99 governmental legislatures. That means over seven out of ten of state-level legislative bodies have a Republican majority.¹

The Democratic Party has a great deal of rebuilding and reorganization to do to recover from a large deficit of elected officials to regain a majority in state and national governments.

Unending Rule

In Scripture (and in history), most dynasties end with assassination, rebellion, or death in battle with foreign powers. Yet God has been faithful to have a descendant of King David available to be on the throne, just as He promised David (2 Samuel 7:12–13, Psalm 132). Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the kingdom of Judah around 586 BC. Heirs of David were available as YHWH promised. These were the ancestors of Messiah, David's greater Son.

We are told explicitly in the New Testament that Jesus was the legal heir to the throne of David (Luke 1:27, 32, 69, 2:4, and many more verses). When Christ returns, He will rule all the earth, but He shall do so as the Davidic King. The Kingdom of God shall never end. Christ is immortal (1 Timothy 6:16) and He will rule for a period of time with no successful rebellion. Christ's rule of the Kingdom of God will end when He gives the Kingdom, along with all rule, power, and authority to God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24–28).

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¹ ["Republicans Expand Domination of State Legislatures."](#) Roll Call, accessed November 13, 2016. There are 50 states and all but Nebraska have two legislative houses.