

Orson Pratt, Salt Lake City, July 8, 1855

“Did the Lord have a hand in the organization of the United States government?” asks the enquirer. Yes, the Lord had a hand in framing its Constitution. Why did not the Lord, at that time, introduce a perfect government – a theocracy? It was simply because the people were not prepared for it – they were too corrupt; and although they had more integrity, more virtue, more honesty, and more sympathy and feeling for that which is just and upright and good, than any other portion of the inhabitants of the earth, and probably more than a great many now have, yet they were far from being prepared for the government for the government of God, which is a government of union.

Journal of Discourses Vol. 3, p. 71

They were far from that, consequently the Lord inspired them to introduce a government that He knew would be just suited to their capacity, and hence it was that He inspired Jefferson, Washington, Franklin, and others to introduce those measures which they did, and to carry them out, and they were such as were just suited to the conditions and circumstances of the people; hence the government of the United States we, as a people, venerate and defend.

Journal of Discourses Vol. 3, p. 71

Why do we do this? We do it because God had His hand in the organization of it; He controlled it so far as He could do so without interfering with the agency of man.

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We have seen plainly and clearly that had it not been for the organization of this government, as has wisely and justly been said, where would have been the liberty of the Latter-day Saints.

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This government, then was organized to suit the people and the circumstances in which they were placed, until they were prepared to receive a more perfect one.

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But will the government of the United States continue for ever? No, it is not sufficiently perfect; and notwithstanding it has been sanctioned by the Lord at a time when it was suited to the circumstances of the people, yet the day will come, (I will say it on my own responsibility and not that of this people,) the day will come when the United States government, and all others, will be uprooted, and the power beneath the heavens cannot prevent this taking place, if the Bible be true, and we know it to be true.

Journal of Discourses Vol. 3, p. 72

The Lord will govern all things that He has made and created, for it is entered upon the records of heaven that all nations shall bow to His authority; and consequently, we respect the government of the United States, because it has good principles in it, and not that we think it will endure for ever.

Brigham Young, Salt Lake City, July 31, 1859

Erroneous traditions and the powers of darkness have such a sway over mankind, that, when we speak of a theocracy on the earth, the people are frightened.
Journal of Discourses Vol. 6, p. 342

But few, if any, understand what a theocratic government is. In every sense of the word, it is a republican government, and differs but little in form from our National, State, and Territorial Governments; but its subjects will recognize the will and dictation of the Almighty. The kingdom of God circumscribes and comprehends the municipal laws for the people in their outward government, to which pertain the Gospel covenants, by which the people can be saved; and those covenants pertain to fellowship and faithfulness.
Journal of Discourses Vol. 6, p. 342

The Gospel covenants are for those who believe and obey; municipal laws are for both saint and sinner.
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The Constitution and laws of the United States resemble a theocracy more closely than any government now on the earth, or that ever has been, so far as we know, except the government of the children of Israel to the time when they elected a king.
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All governments are more or less under the control of the Almighty, and, in their forms, have sprung from the laws that he has from time to time given to man. Those laws, in passing from generation to generation, have been more or less adulterated, and the result has been the various forms of government now in force among the nations; for, as the Prophet says of Israel, "They have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, and broken the everlasting covenant."
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Whoever lives to see the kingdom of God fully established upon the earth will see a government that will protect every person in his rights. If the government was now reigning upon this land of Joseph, you would see the Roman Catholic, the Greek Catholic, the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian, the Methodist, the Baptist, the Quaker, the Shaker, the Hindoo, the Mahometan, and every class of worshippers most strictly protected in all their municipal rights and in the privilege of worshipping who, what, and when they pleased, not infringing upon the rights of others. Does any candid person in his sound judgment desire any greater liberty?
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The Lord has thus far protected and preserved the human family under their various forms and administrations of government, notwithstanding their wickedness, and is still preserving them; but if the kingdom of God, or a theocratic government was established on the earth, many practices now prevalent would be abolished.
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One community would not be permitted to array itself in opposition to another to coerce them to their standard; one denomination would not be suffered to persecute another because they differed in religious belief and mode of worship. Every one would be fully protected in the enjoyment of all religious and social rights, and no state, no government, no community, no person

would have the privilege of infringing on the rights of another: one Christian community would not rise up and persecute another.