

God's New World Order

Fessahaye Mebrahtu

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The US Declaration of Independence and Constitution, created a republic, ushering a new political order unlike the political systems that existed before. The French revolution with all its messy outcomes was another forerunner of European political order, tempering the power of kings and emperors through constitutional monarchy or getting rid of them for good. This new political order led to the creation of nation state and European Nationalism that led to World War I and II. The European political system became the standard of governance for the rest of the world. However, the proliferation of European style political systems – left or right did not bring about peace to the rest of the world. To the contrary, these political systems became destabilizing tools instead of bringing peace and prosperity to those who adapted them.

The first reading from Prophet Zachariah proclaims the good news of immanent peace to Jerusalem. Jerusalem geographically located at the cross roads of powerful empires suffered constant turmoil and lack of peace. The prophet gives hope that all these shall end and peace will reign among nations, “From the river to the end of the earth.” However, Jesus assured his disciples that the peace he gives is different from what the world calls peace. The worldly peace expressed in the absence of war that does not respect individual liberty and conscience. Inner peace comes from the Holy Spirit and is expressed and witnessed in our daily living.

Real peace is gained through our partnership with Jesus, carrying our end of “the yoke” with him. He wants us to have a relationship with him to fulfill our yearnings to be whole. Jesus scorns the self-serving human wisdom and learning that does not rely in God. Human wisdom and skills rely on exclusive associations with the powerful and influential for convenience. Such exclusive association is often at the expense of those who cannot defend themselves or voice their needs and sufferings. Humility and inclusivity is foundational to God's wisdom in the words of the Psalmist, “The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.” Therefore, Jesus invitation to come to him is for our own benefit because, “the Lord is faithful in all his words and holy in all his works.”