

**Three critical points of tension
in Christendom**

Scientific - **Material / Spiritual**

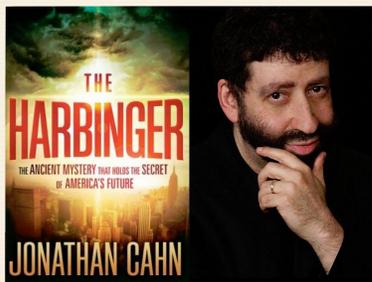
Salvific - **Law / Grace**

Social - **Church / State**

**All three are tied to
the relationship of the
Old and New Covenants.**

One of the gravest mistakes Christians make in Biblical ethics is to misread and misapply the Old Testament teaching.

YouTube
JONATHAN CAHN ON CAPITAL HILL
FOLLOW BAAL AND GO TO HELL!



Sounds like Jeremiah before Israel rather than Jesus before Rome.

- ✓ Cahn's talk is passionate and **motivating**.
- ✓ His argument is logical and **reasonable**.

Why is this talk controversial?

- ✓ I know of no credible historian who would agree with his basic **premise**.
- ✓ He is very **selective** in his support for the premise that America was formed (like Israel) in a covenant relationship with God.
- ✓ He talks about America as though it was a **theocracy**, not a democracy.

Two contrasting systems

THEOCRACY	DEMOCRACY
<p>top - down governmental system shaped by a religious covenant</p> <p>church and state united as one</p> <p>Islamic states</p>	<p>bottom - up governmental system shaped by social contract</p> <p>church and state separated</p> <p>USA</p>

Contrasting Systems

SOCIAL CONTRACT	NEW COVENANT	OLD COVENANT
<p>USA</p> <p>Man initiates a unique nation</p> <p>Social and legal Pluralism</p> <p>Temporal / Material</p>	<p>The Body of Christ</p> <p>God initiates a unique covenant</p> <p>God's people called out from all the nations</p> <p>Spiritual</p>	<p>Ancient Israel</p> <p>God initiates a unique covenant</p> <p>God's people identified with the nation Israel</p> <p>Temporal / Material</p>

A false premise

SOCIAL CONTRACT	NEW COVENANT	OLD COVENANT
A Christian nation	Ancient Israel	
Man initiates a unique nation	In response to God's leading	God initiates a unique covenant
Social and legal Pluralism	Under the umbrella of the Law of Moses	God's people identified with the nation Israel
Temporal / Material	Spiritual	Temporal / Material

Differences between Ancient Israel and the USA

- ✓ Israel was under a **God initiated covenant** while the USA was based on a **human social contract**.
- ✓ Under Moses, Israel was a **temporal, material, political**, Kingdom while under Jesus the Kingdom was **spiritual and not of this world**.
- ✓ The Kingdom under Israel was **limited geographical, ethnically, and nationally**, while the USA is **diverse, pluralistic, and open to all**.
- ✓ If there is a parallel to ancient Israel today, it is the **church** more than the **USA**.
- ✓ The Biblical standards for the **state** are not as strict as for the **covenant people of faith**.

1 Corinthians 5

“⁹ I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. *Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*”

John 18:36

“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, my kingdom is not of this realm.”

Jesus' disciples' power is not military, political, economic, academic, philosophical, or personality.

IT IS THE WORD OF THE CROSS.

1 Corinthians 1

“¹⁸ For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved **it is the power of God**. ¹⁹ For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.*” ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach **Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God** and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

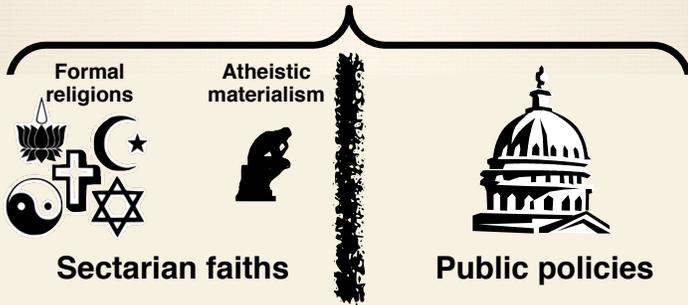
1 Corinthians 1

“²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ²⁹ that no man should boast before God. ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ that, just as it is written, “*Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.*””

- ✓ **Christians are called not for their nobility or worldly power but to be a mockery of it.**

Separation of state from any one **religious sect** is not the same as separation from any notion of **transcendent spiritual authority**.

Sacred Canopy - Generic god - General religion



How is America unique?

- ✓ America does not have a state religion but it does have an ethical heritage that reflects “Judeo-Christian” tradition.
- ✓ America respects the rights of individuals from every ethnic, religious, & economic group.
- ✓ America strives to provide opportunity for all people to express and advance themselves.
- ✓ America reaches out benevolently to all who are in distress around the world.

James Madison

“We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

John Adams

“Our constitution was made only for a moral and a religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”



Displays of what appear to be the Ten Commandments can be seen on the inner and outer sides of the doors to the Supreme Court and above the bench of the Chief Justice.



The east entrance to the Supreme Court Building pictures Moses as the supreme lawgiver.



John Adams

“The Government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion.”

1797 Treaty of Tripoli

“Check list”

Christian ethics in civic affairs.

- ✓ **Priorities** - Do I properly understand & prioritize my allegiances to God and “Caesar?”
- ✓ **Peacemaking** - Do I contribute to peacemaking & the general welfare in my civic interactions?
- ✓ **Selflessness** - Do I serve the interests of God and those He loves before myself?
- ✓ **Civility** - Do I respect and cooperate with those who may have different views.
- ✓ **Truthfulness** - Do I understand, and faithfully represent the facts and feelings of others.