

God Given Human Rights

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1 Disclaimer

This leaflet aims to show how various human rights are supported by the bible. We encourage you to "test everything; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21) and to peacefully set aside what does not resonate with you.

2 Divine Justice and Human Perception

- 1 **God's Timing is Not Ours:** 2 Peter 3:8-9: "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." This reminds us that God's perspective on time is vastly different from ours. What we see as delay is often His mercy in action.
- 2 **God's Purpose in Allowing Wickedness:** Romans 9:22-23: "What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory?" Sometimes, God allows wickedness to persist to display His patience, mercy, and eventual justice.
- 3 **Not Ours to Judge:** Matthew 7:1-2: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." While we long for justice, we are reminded not to sit in judgment ourselves, for we all fall short.
- 4 **Examples of Immediate Divine Justice:**
- 5 Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4): The proud Babylonian king was humbled and lived like an animal until he acknowledged God's sovereignty.
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Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5): They lied about the proceeds of a sale and were struck dead as a result.

Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:21-23): He did not give praise to God while being hailed as a god, and he was struck down and eaten by worms.

These examples show that sometimes God does intervene directly and swiftly. However, such immediate judgments are exceptions, not the norm.

The Ultimate Judgment: Revelation 20:11-15: Describes the final judgment, where everyone will stand before God, and those whose names aren't found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. This underscores that while some seem to escape justice in this life, no one will escape God's ultimate judgment.

Regarding Wealth and Injustice: James 5:1-6: The Bible warns the rich who have gained their wealth unjustly. It mentions that their wealth will testify against them, and the cries of the workers they've exploited have reached God's ears. While wealth in itself isn't wrong, the love of money and obtaining it unjustly is condemned.

2.1 Concluding Thoughts:

The presence of evil and apparent lack of immediate divine justice has been a challenging issue for many believers throughout history. However, the Bible consistently portrays a God of justice, who will, in His time and way, ensure that justice is served. In the interim, believers are called to trust in His wisdom, seek justice themselves (Micah 6:8), and remember that God's mercy is at work even in the delay.

3 Right to Life

The sanctity of life is a principle rooted in various religious, philosophical, and cultural traditions, emphasizing that every human life is invaluable and sacred. The Bible, particularly, holds various verses that speak to the inherent value of human life, from conception to natural death.

3.1 Biblical Verses:

Genesis 9:6: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." This underlines the divine likeness and sanctity of every human being. Exodus 20:13: "You shall not murder."

Quotes indicating the divine sanctity and inherent value of life:

Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;" Indicating everyone is a creation of God.

Psalms 139:13-14: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Matthew 25:40: "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" This verse emphasizes the inherent worth of even the most marginalized individuals, underlining the belief that in serving humanity, one serves God directly.

The biblical perspective on the sanctity of life underscores the universal human rights emphasis on the right to life, evident in several key legal documents:

3.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

3.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 6: "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life."

3.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 7: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

Both religious texts and international legal instruments converge on the inherent dignity and worth of every human life, demanding that societies uphold and protect this foundational right.

4 Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion

The importance of individual freedom—especially in the realms of thought, conscience, and religious belief—holds deep roots in the teachings of the Bible. These tenets emphasize not only the liberty of personal convictions but also the significance of spiritual freedom.

4.1 Biblical Verses:

2 Corinthians 3:17: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." This affirms the liberating nature of God's presence, emphasizing spiritual freedom.

Galatians 5:1: "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." Here, the Apostle Paul urges believers to embrace the freedom found in Christ and resist reverting to spiritual bondage.

John 8:32: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." This points to the liberating power of truth, a cornerstone of personal belief and conviction.

Acts 5:29: "But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" Highlighting the primacy of individual conscience and religious duty over human decrees.

Romans 14:5: "One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind." A nod to personal convictions and the diversity of religious beliefs.

These biblical affirmations resonate deeply with the principles enshrined in international legal documents, underscoring the universal importance of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion:

4.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 18: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance."

4.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 18: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching."

4.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 2(a): "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion."

The alignment between biblical teachings and international legal instruments underscores a shared understanding of the profound importance of preserving and respecting individual freedoms related to thought, conscience, and religious belief.

5 Right to Freedom of Expression

5.1 Biblical Verses:

Psalms 119:46: "I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame." This verse touches on the idea of confidently expressing one's beliefs without fear, even in the presence of powerful figures.

Proverbs 31:8-9: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Advocacy for the voiceless and defense of the rights of the marginalized is a central theme here.

Acts 4:19-20: "But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'" In this context, Peter and John assert their commitment to speaking the truth as they have witnessed, even in the face of potential persecution.

Jeremiah 1:9: "Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, 'I have put my words in your mouth.'" Jeremiah is given a divine mandate to speak without fear.

Luke 21:13-15: "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist." This verse speaks to the idea of divine inspiration in speaking truth to power.

Proverbs 18:2: "Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions." While this verse seems critical, it underscores the human inclination to express oneself.

2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." Encouraging believers to express their beliefs without fear.

5.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

- Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

5.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)

- Article 19:

1. (1) Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.
2. (2) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either

orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

3. (3) The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:

- (a) (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;
- (b) (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.

5.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 2(b): Guarantees everyone the "freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication."

6 Right to Liberty and Security

The concept of individual liberty and security is deeply embedded in both religious teachings and international legal conventions. The Bible offers numerous passages underscoring the value of personal freedom and the divine promise of protection.

6.1 Biblical Verses:

Galatians 5:1: "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." This verse emphasizes the spiritual freedom granted through Christ, urging believers to remain steadfast and not be burdened again by spiritual bondage.

Ezekiel 34:28: "They shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell securely, and no one shall make them afraid." This provides a promise of security and protection, ensuring that the faithful will not be subjected to harm or fear.

Matt 5:5: "The meek shall inherit the Earth." This is a promise that through pacifism and conscientious objection to violence disciples of Christ will remain alive and inherit the land.

Psalm 91:2: "I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" This verse emphasizes relying on God as the ultimate protector and source of security.

Psalm 119:45: "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." A testament to the liberty found in following divine teachings.

John 8:36: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Speaking to the complete and unyielding freedom granted through Christ.

These biblical affirmations are mirrored in the principles outlined in international legal documents that emphasize the fundamental rights to liberty and security:

6.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person."

6.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 9: "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."

6.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 7: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice." Section 9: "Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned."

6.5 Conclusion

The alignment between biblical teachings and international legal instruments reflects a

shared understanding of the inherent rights to liberty and security that every individual should enjoy.

7 Right to Security of Person

7.1 Biblical Foundation:

Throughout the Bible, the protection and security of individuals are key themes. God is often portrayed as a refuge and protector of those who seek Him.

Psalm 121:7-8: "The LORD will keep you from all harm — He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." This verse speaks to the divine protection afforded to believers.

Proverbs 1:33: "But whoever listens to me will dwell securely and will be at ease, without dread of disaster." Here, wisdom is portrayed as a source of security against harm.

Psalm 91:1-2: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" The idea of finding refuge and security in God is reiterated.

Deuteronomy 22:25-26: "But if out in the country a man happens to meet a young woman pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die... For the man found the young woman out in the country, and though the betrothed woman screamed, there was no one to rescue her." This emphasizes the seriousness with which violations like rape are viewed biblically.

7.2 International Framework:

The right to security of the person is a fundamental human right recognized by various international instruments:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." This article emphasizes the foundational nature of personal security as a human right.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Article 9(1):

Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.”

Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter): Section 7: ”Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.” This section enshrines the right to personal security and establishes its significance within the broader framework of justice.

7.3 Conclusion

Security of the person encompasses protections against threats to one’s physical well-being, freedom from torture, freedom from arbitrary detention, freedom from rape, and freedom from unwanted medical interventions. It represents a commitment to safeguard individuals from harm, ensuring that every person can live free from fear and oppression. Both spiritual and legal traditions emphasize the importance of this right, and the collective responsibility to uphold it.

8 Right to Freedom of Assembly and Association

8.1 Biblical Verses:

Matthew 18:20: ”For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” This underscores the divine presence during collective worship and the sacredness of religious assembly.

Hebrews 10:24-25: ”And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...” This verse not only encourages assembly but also emphasizes its purpose – to motivate, uplift, and edify one another in faith.

Acts 2:42: ”They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” This early reference from the Acts of the Apostles reflects the foundational practice of Chris-

tians assembling together for mutual edification and worship.

Colossians 3:16: ”Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” This verse points to the importance of collective worship and spiritual teaching, activities central to many religious assemblies.

8.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 20(1): ”Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.” This broad right can be interpreted to include religious gatherings, which are a form of peaceful assembly.

8.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 21: ”The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized.” This article reiterates the foundational human right to gather peacefully, including for religious purposes.

Article 18: ”Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom... to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.” This directly safeguards the right to assemble for religious worship and practice.

8.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 2(c): Specifically guarantees the ”freedom of peaceful assembly.” Within the context of the Charter, this would also encompass religious assemblies as an integral component of the broader right.

8.5 Conclusion

Religious assembly and association for worship and fellowship are foundational elements of many faith traditions. Both biblical texts and international human rights instruments recognize and protect this intrinsic human and religious need to gather.

9 Right to Land and Housing

The right to land is essential for society to function, people need to have land on which to live, to grow their food, firewood and have housing. It is supported both by the bible and international law.

9.1 Bible Verses

Land has always been significant in biblical history, from the promise of the Promised Land to the Israelites to the many agricultural parables used by Jesus. Here are several verses that emphasize the right to land and the blessings associated with it:

Leviticus 26:4-5: "I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land."

Psalms 37:3: "Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture."

Isaiah 65:21-23: "They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands."

Micah 4:4: "But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken."

Ezekiel 34:27: "The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them."

Jeremiah 29:5: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce."

Deuteronomy 28:8: "The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you."

These verses emphasize the right to land and the blessings that come with owning,

and benefiting from one's own property. They portray a vision of peace, security, and prosperity, where every individual has the right to their own piece of land and the fruits it bears.

9.2 UDHR:

Article 25(1): "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services..."

This framing emphasizes that having a place to live (land/housing) is essential for overall well-being and is a foundational human right recognized by international standards.

9.3 ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights):

Article 1.2: "All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence."

This article further accentuates that not only should people have the right to freely utilize their natural resources, but they should also never be deprived of their means of subsistence, including the land. The land is crucial for agriculture, habitation, cultural activities, and more, making it essential for the holistic development and well-being of communities.

Article 11(1): Recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.

9.4 ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) Resolution 57/59:

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 57/59, emphasized the importance of land resources for the sustainable development and livelihood of peoples. This reso-

lution recognizes that all peoples, especially indigenous communities, have the right to own, develop, control, and use their communal lands, territories, and resources.

Furthermore, the resolution also emphasizes the importance of equitable access to land and resources, which is crucial for poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The resolution thus underlines the significance of land not just as a piece of property but as an integral component of people's cultural, spiritual, social, and economic lives.

9.5 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

The Charter itself does not have a specific provision guaranteeing the right to land or housing. However, the Section 7 right to "life, liberty and security of the person" has been argued in legal challenges to include a broader range of rights, including potentially housing, especially when considering homeless populations. However, the interpretation of Section 7 in this context is not settled and continues to evolve.

10 Right to Food Sovereignty and Subsistence Farming

10.1 Biblical Verses:

Genesis 1:29: "Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.'" This emphasizes the divine intention of providing plants and seeds for human sustenance, implying a basic human right to access and cultivate food sources.

Leviticus 19:9-10: "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest... Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you." Here, sustainable farming practices are highlighted, as well as the importance of ensuring that all community members, including the vulnerable, have access to food.

Proverbs 12:11: "Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense." This verse reinforces the value of working the land to achieve food security and sufficiency.

2 Thessalonians 3:10: "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.'" While this emphasizes the principle of working for one's food, it also implies the right and responsibility of individuals to labor, including farming, for their sustenance.

10.2 ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights):

Article 11: Recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, which includes the right to adequate food. Further, it acknowledges the essential right of everyone to be free from hunger, emphasizing states' responsibility to improve methods of production, conservation, and distribution of food.

10.3 UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP):

Article 15: Asserts the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas to the means of production they need to enjoy an adequate standard of living, to subsistence, to participation in decision-making processes, and to safe, clean, and healthy environments. It specifically mentions the right to "seeds, livestock, and access to water, land, adequate finance, credit, and other means of production."

10.4 Conclusion

The intertwined rights to food, land, and sustenance are fundamental to human dignity and survival. Both biblical wisdom and international human rights instruments emphasize the importance of these rights and the collective responsibility to ensure their realization for all.

11 Prohibition of Discrimination

The prohibition of discrimination, a fundamental principle of human rights, is deeply rooted in religious teachings that promote love, acceptance, and unity among all. The Bible offers various passages that encourage believers to show love, kindness, and impartiality to everyone, regardless of their background, beliefs, or status.

11.1 Biblical Verses:

Acts 10:34-35: "Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.'" This revelation underscores the universality of God's love and acceptance.

Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Here, Paul highlights the inherent equality of all believers in Christ, transcending all worldly distinctions.

James 2:9: "But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers." This speaks directly against discrimination and partiality.

Matthew 5:44: "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Jesus urges believers to show love even to those considered adversaries.

Leviticus 19:18: "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." An Old Testament commandment that promotes love and unity.

John 13:34: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Jesus emphasizes the importance of mutual love and care among His followers.

The biblical teachings mirror the principles found in international legal documents that emphasize the prohibition of discrimination:

11.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 2: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Decla-

tion, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

11.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 2: "Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

Article 26: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

11.4 ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights):

Article 2: "The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 15: "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

11.5 Conclusion

Both the Bible and international legal documents converge on the fundamental principle that discrimination is unacceptable and that all individuals should be treated with equality, love, and respect.

12 Right to Participation in Government

The right to participate in government is fundamental to democratic societies. This right is enshrined in various international documents, and the Bible also contains instances where God's servants played influential roles in government and advised rulers.

12.1 Biblical Verses:

Romans 13:1: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." This verse not only underscores the divine origin of authority and governance but also implies that the true legitimacy and justice of a governing authority derive from its alignment with God's principles.

Proverbs 8:15-16: "By me [wisdom] kings reign, and rulers issue decrees that are just; by me princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth." This scripture emphasizes that rulers and leaders must be guided by divine wisdom to ensure just governance. Their actions and decrees are only just when they are in accordance with God's wisdom and principles.

Genesis 41:39-40: After Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, Pharaoh said to him, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders." This is a clear example of a servant of God holding a prominent position in government and influencing decisions. Joseph's influence in the government was directly linked to his alignment with God's wisdom.

Daniel 2:48: "Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men." Like Joseph,

Daniel was a God-fearing man who rose to a significant governmental role due to his wisdom and divine guidance. Like Joseph, Daniel's rise in government was due to his reliance on and alignment with God's guidance.

Esther 4:14: Mordecai reminded Esther of the divine purpose behind her royal position, emphasizing the importance of aligning with God's will to bring about justice for her people: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

In this context, the Bible provides a clear perspective: not only is the authority of leaders and rulers divinely instituted, but its true essence and justice are only maintained when they align with God's principles and wisdom.

12.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 21: (1) "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives." (2) "Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country." (3) "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

12.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 25: "Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors; (c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country."

12.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 3: "Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein." This section directly addresses the democratic rights of citizens, including their right to participate in the electoral process.

12.5 Conclusion

In summary, the right to participate in government is rooted in both religious teachings and international human rights documents. Participation in governance is seen as not just a civil right but also a moral duty, reflecting the divine mandate for justice, wisdom, and righteous governance.

13 Right to Health

The right to health is a fundamental human right, enshrined in various international instruments and also reflected in religious texts, including the Bible. Here's a detailed section on the right to health:

13.1 Biblical Verses:

3 John 1:2: "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul."

This verse expresses a heartfelt wish for one's physical health to be as well as one's spiritual health.

Exodus 15:26: "He said, 'If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.'" Here, God presents Himself as a healer and protector from diseases for those who follow His commands.

Psalms 107:20: "He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave." This scripture highlights God's power to heal and restore health.

Jeremiah 30:17: "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares

the LORD. God assures His people of His intention and power to bring healing.

13.2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

Article 25(1): "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services..."

13.3 ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights):

Article 12: "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for: (a) The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child; (b) The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene; (c) The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases; (d) The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness."

13.4 The Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO):

"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

13.5 Conclusion

Health, both physical and mental, is recognized as a fundamental human right in various international instruments and is also emphasized in religious texts. Ensuring the health of individuals isn't just about treating illness, but about creating conditions that

ensure well-being and prevent illness in the first place. The interconnectedness of spiritual, mental, and physical health is also a recurring theme in biblical teachings.

14 Right to Fair Trial and Due Process

The right to a fair trial and due process is foundational in many legal systems and is also emphasized in religious texts. Let's delve into this right:

14.1 Biblical Verses:

Proverbs 18:17: "The first to present his case seems right, until another comes forward and questions him." This verse emphasizes the importance of hearing both sides of an argument before passing judgment, highlighting the biblical basis for the principle of due process.

Deuteronomy 19:15: "One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." This scripture establishes a principle that's foundational in modern justice systems: the importance of corroborative evidence and the dangers of relying on a single witness.

Leviticus 19:15: "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly." A call for impartiality in judgment and the equal application of the law.

Exodus 23:6-7: "Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty." This underscores the importance of justice and fairness, especially for the vulnerable, and warns against false accusations.

14.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 10: "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him."

14.3 ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):

Article 14: "All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law."

14.4 Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canadian Charter):

Section 11: "Any person charged with an offence has the right... to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal..."

The principle of a fair trial and due process is essential to ensure justice and prevent miscarriages of justice. This principle is recognized in both secular international instruments and biblical teachings, emphasizing its universality and enduring importance.

15 Right to Work and Freedom from Slavery

The right to work and freedom from slavery are paramount in safeguarding human dignity. Here's a comprehensive section detailing these rights:

15.1 Biblical Verses:

1 Timothy 5:18: "For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'" This verse emphasizes the importance of rewarding work and ensuring that laborers receive just compensation for their efforts.

Leviticus 19:13: "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning." A clear directive to pay workers promptly and fairly.

Exodus 21:16: "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death." This verse

denounces the act of kidnapping and selling people, a condemnation of forms of slavery.

Deuteronomy 24:14: "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of the foreigners in your towns." It emphasizes fairness and equity in dealing with all workers, irrespective of their social or national status.

15.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24: "Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay."

15.3 ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights):

Article 6: Recognizes the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and states will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right.

Article 7: Pertains to the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work, which includes fair wages, safe working conditions, and equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted in his employment.

The right to work in dignified conditions and the imperative for freedom from any form of slavery or forced labor is a universal principle recognized both in religious texts and international human rights instruments. Both emphasize the inherent dignity of the

individual and the importance of respecting and valuing their labor.

16 Right to Education and Freedom to Homeschool

The right to education and, by extension, the choice of its form (including homeschooling) is essential for the development of the individual and society. Here's a section detailing this right:

16.1 Biblical Verses:

Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." This classic verse underscores the value of early education and parental guidance, suggesting that foundational teachings have a lasting impact throughout life.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." This suggests continuous, integrated education in the context of daily life and routine, aligning well with the homeschooling philosophy.

Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." This highlights the role of parents in not just educating but also instilling values in their children.

16.2 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

Article 26:

Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights

and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance, and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. This provision can be invoked to support the right to homeschool, as it emphasizes parental choice in the type of education.

16.3 ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights):

Article 13:

Recognizes the right of everyone to education, aiming for the full development of the human personality and a sense of its dignity. This should enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society.

States that primary education should be compulsory and available freely to all.

It acknowledges the liberty of parents and guardians to choose schools for their children other than those established by public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards. This can be interpreted to include the right to homeschool.

16.4 Conclusion

The right to education, including the choice of its mode such as homeschooling, is emphasized both in religious texts and international human rights instruments. These sources highlight the foundational role of education in personal development and the importance of choice in determining the form this education takes.

17 God's dedication to Human Rights

The Bible contains a myriad of verses and narratives that highlight God's commitment to justice, righteousness, and the protection of the downtrodden. Here's an exploration of how the Bible illustrates God's support for human rights and His stance against evildoers:

17.1 God Upholds Justice and Righteousness:

Psalms 11:7: "For the LORD is righteous; he loves justice. The upright will see his face."

Isaiah 61:8: "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them."

17.2 Protection of the Oppressed and Downtrodden:

Psalms 146:7-9: "He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous."

Proverbs 31:8-9: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

17.3 Consequences for the Wicked and Evildoers:

Deuteronomy 32:35: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

Psalms 7:9: "Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds."

Psalms 34:16: "The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth."

17.4 God's Judgment on Evildoers:

Revelation 21:8: "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

17.5 God's Response to Repentance:

Despite the judgments against evil actions, God is always willing to forgive those who

genuinely repent and turn from their wicked ways.

Ezekiel 18:21-23: "But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live. Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?"

17.6 Conclusion

The biblical narrative consistently portrays a God who is deeply concerned about justice, righteousness, and human welfare. He despises wickedness and unrighteousness, and those who persist in evil actions without repentance will face consequences. Yet, God's heart is always turned towards redemption, and He offers grace and forgiveness to those who genuinely seek it. This overarching theme of justice and mercy underpins many of the principles that modern human rights are founded upon.