Discussion/Reflection Questions

1. Think about how you read the Bible. What is your "hermeneutic?" Do you see the Bible as progressive or static; flat or hierarchical? Think about how the way you read and interpret the Bible impacts what you believe the Bible says and means to you.

2. Think about how you have developed your political views? To what extent are your political views influenced by your faith and your reading of the Bible?

3. How do you think you (as a Christian) should think and feel and talk to or about people who hold different political views? Is it appropriate for the followers of Jesus to speak badly or unkindly about other people? How should the followers of Jesus engage in political conversation and involvement?

4. To whom or what should Christians pledge allegiance? On what biblical basis should we answer this question?

5. Will you commit to pray for our congregation as we undertake this study together? Pray that we will all have hearts and minds that are open to learn (and follow-through on) appropriate ways to be the followers of Jesus who live in the current realities (political and other) of our world.

6. Review the observations made in the message from the early chapters of Genesis. In what ways do these observations shape and influence how you read the Bible? In what way do they shape and influence how you think about the nature of our series—Christians and political engagement and activity?

7. If God is working to accomplish "redemption" and "reconciliation" and undoing the consequences of sin, which of the sin-consequences in Genesis 3 (and the rest of the Bible) should we expect to be undone in this world?

When Kingdoms Collide: Christians and Politics (II)

Pastor Alan Robinson, September 14, 2008

Genesis 1:26-31 (church Bible page 1)

(26) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
(27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
(28) God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
(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. (30) And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.
(31) God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Also Genesis 3:1-24 (church bible page 3)

Hermeneutics may be described as the development and study of theories of the interpretation and understanding of texts. In contemporary usage in religious studies, hermeneutics refers to the study of the interpretation of religious texts. (Wikipedia)

Hermes – the Greek god who was, among other things, the herald, messenger, interpreter of the gods – especially Zeus.