

**Title:** Upon His Shoulder  
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## Heaven invading earth

### Matthew 6:9-13

<sup>9</sup>In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Some background

- Constitutional democracy
- “Government of the people, by the people, for the people” – Lincoln
- Proportional representation
- Don’t vote for individuals

### 1: Pray

#### 1 Timothy 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. <sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

#### 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (The Message)

<sup>1-3</sup>The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.

#### Jeremiah 29:7

<sup>7</sup>And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace

### 2: Engage constructively

#### Daniel 5:11

<sup>11</sup>There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.

#### Philippians 2:14-16

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

### **3: Vote**

#### **Proverbs 29:2**

<sup>2</sup>When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

- Since we don't vote for individuals personal character becomes irrelevant and organisational culture & party policy becomes crucial.
- You'll vote according to who you most identify with – where your strongest allegiance lies.
- Alternatively your vote will reveal your allegiance.
- Someone to speak in your stead
- You will have few opportunities to demonstrate your devotion to Christ as clearly as at an election.
- Seek first the Kingdom

#### **Matthew 6:31-33**

<sup>31</sup>“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- Seek first the Kingdom
- At what stage does Matthew 6:33 no longer apply?
- When finance wins out over morality, everybody ends up poorer
- Make your vote an act of faith, not an act of fear

### **4: Honour**

#### **1 Peter 2:17**

<sup>17</sup>Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

#### **1 Samuel 8:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>And the Lord said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

#### **1 Samuel 12:23**

<sup>23</sup>Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

### **Upon His shoulder**

#### **Isaiah 9:6**

<sup>6</sup>For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.