

## Why Believers Must Vote: Part 1: Because we are commanded to.

Perhaps the most direct command for believers to vote is found here:

“16. These are the things you shall do:

Speak each man the truth to his neighbor:

Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice and peace:

17. Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor:

And do not love a false oath.

For all these are things that I hate,” Says the LORD [Yahovah].”

**Zechariah 8:16–17**, New King James Version

Did you catch this?

Let’s take a closer look.

In the first line we see that this is a command from God addressed to believers.

Then in the second line we see that we are to share the truth with others. This is quoted in **Ephesians 4:25**. We cannot share the truth if we are uninformed, misinformed, or willfully ignorant. We must know our Savior, Jesus, (“Yahshua” is the name the angel told Mary & Joseph to name him). And we must have a basic understanding of the Word, and we must know the truth of what is going on around where God has planted us. Truth is not limited to the religious world or to a religious group.

In the third line, the gates are the areas of town where town matters were decided. For us today, that is our town offices. So, how can we give judgment if we are not a town official? or state official? or national official? It’s simple. We can vote! We can vote to elect someone who best represents us for the ways of Yahshua. He is the Word that was made flesh, in action for all to see. We can vote on referendum questions, and we can vote on budget questions too. We can make judgments in our gates by voting. This line is an echo of **Zechariah 7:9**.

The contrast between officials to vote for may not be dramatic, and the best of the two candidates may still fall short of our standards, but to not vote for the better of the two is like letting the worst of the two take over judgment in the gates, the areas we live in. Also, we can support better candidates to run for office, or even pray about running ourselves.

The first line of verse 17 warns us that we are to have clean hearts, plus not murmur and complain about who is elected, or who is running for office, but to repent of our own lack of prayer & action to let His life shine through us to make a difference for truth, justice & peace.

The second line of verse 17 tells us to not put up with the politicians who say one thing but do another. We can vote them out of office when they go to rerun by voting for a better candidate to replace them. This may need to be done at the primary stage, where each party votes to determine which candidate will run to represent their party.

This middle line of verse 17 also warns us to not tolerate “fake news,” “deception,” “lies,” and “falsehoods” by those who represent us at all three levels of government.

And the last line alerts us to side with Yahovah by taking action to get truth into the arena & keep it there. He is not so concerned about what we say as He is with what we do, (**Matthew 12:50**). Let’s join His winning team & be sure to vote.

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