Politics: A Theological Examination on the Impact of Governance on Some Historical Events and Early 21st Century Nigeria Economy

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Abstract

The control of the forces and powers that make the cosmos pulsate is a desire that had occupied the sharp mind of Lucifer and eventually wrecked him. He had desired to be like the Most High. (**Isaiah 14:12-14).** Unfortunately, his desires were entrenched in self- exaltation. And, self-exaltation is at the heart of sin. Sin, is lawlessness. The universe is orderly; it is governed by the principles of love and, therefore, cannot accommodate the fatal weaknesses inherent in lawlessness. The great Alexandrian Library founded by the Ptolemaic dynasty was destroyed, the Maccabean revolt against Hellenistic civilization resulting in the emergence of the Saduccees and Pharisees parties in the second century B.C were inspired by politics. Nigeria economy since the dawn of the 21st century has been neck-deep in crisis. Good governance is scarce but God has the ultimate answer – the "fear of God is the beginning of wisdom". Was Lucifer's interest in overthrowing the government of God inspired by the germ of politics? What is politics? This article intends to highlight the damages caused by self-centred political drive both in religious and secular history. The paper opines that solution to these challenges is found only in the Holy Scriptures.

Key Words: Alexandria Library, Politics, Maccabean Revolt, Oil Spillage,, and Economics

Introduction

Some scholars have made an attempt at defining politics. It is certain that politics has to do with governance. Governance implies organized attempt at insuring

peace and order in the society. It is also understood that, for peace and order to be maintained in the society, certain prerequisites must be met. Politics involves creating a favourable platform for the unfettered growth of those prerequisites. Kumokou sees politics as "activity by which social order is upheld"

(2004:3) According to him, it entails, "doing things collectively that cannot be done separately"(ibid). Ntete-Nna gave credits to Mark R. Amistute who, in his philosophical approach to politics, sees politics as "the realization of some established standards of the good, the right, the just, and attempts to judge human activities in terms of how they meet these established standards" (2004:3).

In politics, authority and who exercises it are inevitable realities. Naturally, in the home setting, parents are the authority and children, the subjects. There are also groups classified as informed authority (Alapiki 2004:13). Alapiki observes that there is organizational and bureaucratic authority, such as exists in "schools, armies, industrial and governmental bureaucracies"(ibid). Authority, as an essential instrument in the process of politics, is inevitable. The fact remains that the one who wields authority and the subjects who stay at the receiving end, are humans who have their limitations.

Authority becomes meaningful and, therefore, useful, in a society if the norms provided by those in governance, are appreciated and upheld by the governed. Alapiki also states that, "politics is seen as a controversy, a process of resolution of conflict through discussion, bargaining and compromise"(2004:2)

The art of governance, at all levels, requires sincere interactions between the leader and the led. As Alapiki puts it: "it is a process of resolution of conflict through discussion". The sure way of winning over the confidence of the subjects by the authority, is openness to programmes and accountability. For administrative authority to be effective, the governed must be part of the decision-making and must be willing to be obedient. The willingness of both parties to sit at table and deliberate on issues bordering on their welfare, is the process to conflict resolution.

Lucifer's interest in overthrowing or usurping the authority of God was the beginning of the concept of the slang: "dirty politics". Its main objective is to acquire power for self-exaltation. Lucifer's life was freely given to him by his Creator, the eternal God. God's rule over the illimitable universe is not political. It is the divine order of love that controls both the animate and inanimate things. God knows the end from the beginning. The Scripture declares thus:

> Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose...' Isaiah 46:8-10.

The universe and all that it harbours exist through the unsearchable greatness of God. There is no other power in eternity that compares or competes with divinity. Unfortunately for the devil, he is a created being. He cannot declare the end from the beginning. He has been around for about six thousand of religious history and actively involved in human misery. He could manipulate and effect an event and then declare it prophetic. Only God can predict the future. Politicians may plan for the future but the outcome of such plans is rested on hope. This is predicated on the fact that the future is hidden from human beings. Budgets are made for annual financial operations of organizations. It is interesting to note that periodic reports are given in order to enable management critically evaluate the performance of the budgets. God does not plan and then assemble a committee to critically review the performance of the Deity. God's ways and plans are perfect; they are beyond the scope of human understanding.

Politics of the Alexandria Library

The Scripture states that one of the sons of Japhet, the son of Noah, was called Javan **Gen. 10:2.** He was the founder of the Greek nation (Africa 1969:195). Greece in ancient time was known to have descended from Javan. It was Phillip of Macedonia who united the scattering Greek states. He was assassinated in 336 BC (Nichol 1976:269) and consequently, his son, Alexander, ascended the throne and eventually became the star general of the world. In 332 BC during his campaign in North Africa, he founded the city of Alexandria (Miene 1953:573). For over a

thousand years, Alexandria remained the capital of Egypt (ibid). It was one of the most prosperous cities of the ancient world. Its prosperity included learning. Alexandria harboured the largest library in antiquity (Miene 576). Alexandrian Library might have harboured information such that could have frustrated the birth of evolutionism. There was some wealth of information stacked in that library that could have answered some puzzling questions, especially issues that relate to creation and religion.

The great library preserved more than 700,000 books of antiquity. Goodasave (1978:67) reports that there were two "royal libraries" that boasted of those collections: one was named *Serapeum* containing 300,000 volumes, while the other, *Bruchion*, housed 400,000 volumes. The library had quite a lot to offer the ancient world as observed by Goodasave:

> The Alexandrian Library was also a research institute and a university that had full faculties teaching mathematics, science, literature, philosophy and medicine. There was an astronomical observatory, a chemical laboratory, a botanical and zoological garden and 500-bed hospital with a huge surgical theatre for operations and dissection (ibid).

History informs us that this wealth of knowledge was destroyed. The library was established by Ptolemy I Soler. After him, his son, Ptolemy II Philadelphus assembled more books to beef up the collections (Yasmin:2018). Unfortunately, the Alexandrian Library with all its custody of ancient and rare history, was destroyed. The destruction was politically motivated. The Satan in history, was successful in using politics to suppress truth. Truth can be suppressed but not destroyed.

In 47 BC, during Julius Caesar's campaign against the followers of Emperor Pompey, the fire that was set to destroy the Egyptian warships spread through the library (ibid). About 40,000 books were destroyed in that fire outbreak. Emperor Lucius Domitius, in AD 272 ordered the burning of the Library. In AD 391, Emperor Theodosius also burned the Library. Finally, it was destroyed by militant Muslims in AD 645 under the Caliph Umar I (Pahor 2016).

The systematic destruction of the Alexandrian Library is an indication that there must have been some invaluable documents that could have substantiated truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Such truth as the creation of the world and the Biblical deluge; and the division in languages that encouraged the post-deluge race to scatter over the face of the earth, must have attracted the wrath of Satan. The truth of the matter is that the Renaissance of the 13th century AD, was not really the birth of learning. Men and women of antiquity believed in the Divinity, although Satan had corrupted their understanding of God's real nature.

Unconsecrated politicians became powerful tools in the hand of Satan. Julius Caesar was a pagan. The civil war between him and emperor Pompey's loyalists led to the burning of over 40,000 books in the Library. Emperor Lucius Domitius was an idol worshipper, a tool in the hand of evil spirits. He burned the library in AD 272; likewise, Emperor Theodosius I - a pagan king. In AD 391, he ordered for the destruction of the library. What demons could not accomplish through religious manipulations, they employed the political powers of the state. In the name of religion in AD 640, the caliph Umar I led militant Muslims to wipe out from Alexandria whatever had been spared of the library. Thousands of years of scholarship were thus buried in the dustbin of history through political and religious maneuverings.

The Word of God, the Holy Scripture, is also one of the books of antiquity reaching the present generation. At about 1500 BC, Moses wrote the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses). The power of God protected and preserved the scriptures. The discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls of the scriptures has demonstrated the protective care of God over the holy scrolls. The scrolls were located at Qumran in a monastic ruin probably belonging to the Essenes sect (Neufeld 1979: 990-991).

Notwithstanding the efforts made by Satan to frustrate some knowledge harboured by the Alexandrian library, the Word of God remains intact, protected by holy angels. There were other attempts made by the dragon, through political instigations, to monitor and frustrate the first advent of the Messiah.

The Maccabean Revolt

After the death of Alexander, the battle for the control of his empire ensued. In 301 BC, at the battle of Ipsus, the kingdom was divided among his generals: Lysimachus, Seleucus, Cassander and Ptolemy. Palestine fell under the jurisdiction of Seleucus. The Seleucian empire's capital was at Antioch of Syria.

Judea had been under foreign domination since 586 BC when it was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Babylon was conquered by the Persians under the leadership of Cyrus. Beginning with Cyrus, Israelites were encouraged to return and rebuild their nation in Palestine. The Persians were defeated by the Greeks in 332 BC at the battle of Arbela. Although some Hebrews had relocated to Palestine beginning with the reign of Cyrus, politically they remained under the control of foreign nations.

The division of Alexander's empire by four of his outstanding generals (Ptolemy, Lysimachus, Cassander and Seleucus) brought Palestine under the direct governance of Ptolemy and later Seleucus. During the period the Seleucid kings ruled Palestine, Hellenism (Greek culture and civilization) became pronounced. Antiochus IV Epiphanes (BC 175-164), one of the Seleucid kings, provoked the Jews by denouncing and prohibiting temple worship for three years (Africa 216-263). He also desecrated the temple by sacrificing pigs on the altar. This incident led to the Jewish revolt under the Maccabees. Maxwell says:

> As part of the new order of things, on Chislev 15, 168 BC, a statue of the Greek god Zeus was erected upon the altar of burnt offering.
> First Maccabees 1 indicates that once more liberal Jews assisted in the process. Ten days later, on Chislev 25, they began to sacrifice "unclean" animals on the altar, most likely including swine. 2 Maccabees 6:5. The conservative Jews now rallied around Judas Maccabees, under whose intrepid leadership they secured a series of victories over the armies which Antiochus sent against them. Antiochs Judean campaign was a much a failure as the rest of his pitiable career (1981:191)

This victory provided the Jewish nation the political victory it had craved for centuries. The political freedom lasted for about one hundred years terminating in BC 63 when the Romans conquered Jerusalem on a Sabbath day (Isaacs: Riseof Herod). From thence, Jerusalem was governed from Syria.

Although the Maccabees detested Hellenism, its influence affected Jewish life. Gradually they were absorbed into the Hellenistic culture. The Maccabean rulers, through political intrigue, secured for themselves the office of the high priest and subsequently "Under John Hyrcanus, the Maccabean ruler from B.C. 135 to 105, the distinction between the religious parties of later Judaism became marked. The aristocratic-political party, with which Hyrcanus and the leading priestly families allied themselves, came to be known as the Sadducees" (Walker 1970:13).

Walker observes that the Sadducees were "a worldly party without strong religious conviction" (ibid). They accepted the law (the law of Moses - the five books) but did not cling to its traditional interpretation. They did not believe in the resurrection of the dead or the ministration of angels. Politically, the Sadducees were very influential but were detested by most Jews.

Before the days of John Hyrcanus, a democratic and legalistic group had come into existence. It was the Pharisees. The name Pharisee stands for the "Separated". They had long existed before the emergence of the Sadducees. The Phariseeswere not a political party. They believed in the exact keeping of the law as examined and pronounced by the traditions. They believed and taught the existence of angels, good and bad. They held to the interpretation of the resurrection of the body and the future reward of the righteous. The Pharisees, like many Jews at the time, believed in the imminent arrival of the Messiah.

The political development of a nation may take centuries. The Pharisees and Sadducees had been fighting each other long before Jesus was born in Palestine. Both sects went to the extremes in their religious and political professions. The Sadducees were politicians seeking worldly honour and wealth while the Pharisees were unyielding conservatives who declared all outside their enclave of pharisaism, doomed sinners.

Satan had studied the scriptures very carefully and was fully aware of the arrival and ministry of Jesus. It is remarkable that the Maccabees who fought so hard to liberate the Jews could hijack the high priestly office as well as form the Sadducean party for worldly gain. The Bible has it on record that Caiaphas and Annas were high priests who condemned Jesus to Roman crucifixion. Both men were Sadducees.

Annas was appointed high priest by Quirinius, the Roman governor of Syria in AD 6. He was deposed in AD 15 by Valerius Gratus, who was the procurator of Judea before the appointment of Pilate in AD 26. About AD 18, Valerius appointed Caiaphas high priest. Caiaphas remained in office as the official high priest till AD 36. He was the son-in-law of Annas (Nichol 1976:269). Although Annas was deposed, he remained the favourite of many Jews.

Before Jesus was condemned to death and crucified, Pilate's court made some desperate effort to save Him. The crowd, instigated by the Jewish leaders and inspired by demons, reacted violently: "...If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend", "...we have no king but Caesar" **John 19:12,15.** Who was Caesar? The chief politician of the vast Roman empire. Pilate was threatened and intimidated by those pronouncements made by the crowd and subsequently yielded to their request to crucify the innocent Jesus.

Politics is one of the instruments Satan has successfully employed from time immemorial to control the minds and thus, enlist the service of human beings. He loves power. He succeeded in controlling the minds of countless numbers of angels in heaven. These angels became his agents. Today, they are designated as evil spirits, devils, demons, etc. It was lust for power that turned Lucifer into a dreadful creature in the universe. All who do not humbly accept the saving grace of God as manifested in the life and death of Jesus, will be manipulated and enlisted into Satan's army. Only the blood of Jesus can save humans from the inborn desire to acquire, hate, despise the innocent, overthrow justice and payback evil for good.

Religious sects (Sadducees and Pharisees) as depicted above were masterminded or created by the dragon. One thing Satan dreaded was the first advent of Jesus.

Six hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah had graphically portrayed his arrival, his afflictions, humiliation and subsequent victory:

> Who has believed what they heard from us?
> And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; ...He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth (53:1-7).

For centuries before the birth of the Messiah, Satan had employed the instruments of the state such as Antiochus IV Ephiphanes to make of non-effect the prophecies that pointed to the Messiah. The Maccabean revolt, a response to the political intimidation of Antiochus Epiphanes, provided a platform for the emergence of the Sadducean party. The atmosphere was rife with the presence of demons at the birth of Jesus. But Jesus prevailed. Truth as found in Christ will always prevail: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" **John 8:32.**

Politics and Nigeria Economy

Both Economics and Political Science are social sciences. They deal with some aspects of human behaviour. Basically, economics, "is a science of scarcity and choice" (Udu 2004:1;2006:47). It is generally understood in the economics world that scarcity is the singular element at the heart of economic problem. Since human wants are many and the means scarce, rational distribution of the alternatives must be employed. Hailstones observes that "without scarcity the world would have no economic problems" (Hailstones 1975:4). In the absence of scarcity, everyone could have whatever one wanted at all times. But scarcity is a human tragedy. The scarcest element from creation is life. Can it be allocated or distributed?

Only Jesus can give or distribute life. The scriptures assure us of this assertion:

> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I

> come that they may have life and have it abundantly
> **John 10:10.**

Abundance of life means endless production and supply of human wants and needs. The world as we know it now does not possess this "abundance of life". The good news is that the price for this endless life has already been paid or allocated to this earth. It was made manifest two thousand years ago when Jesus hung on the cross at Calvary. Everyone who accepts this "allocation" will surely be resurrected, if dead, or transformed at the second coming of Christ, if alive.

Satan is aware of this abundance of life in Christ. He is also aware of the very scarcity of human wants. The more scarce the human needs, the more desperate they become in an attempt to keep the little they have. Therefore, the Statan marshals out his forces to deprive them even of the very little they have. The city of Lagos in Nigeria, like some other cities in the world, is littered with thousands of jobless young people insisting to have a share of the scarce commodities. They employ every means at their disposal to obtain their wants.

Ezeoke makes the following observation (2006:47)

> The activities of touts or 'area boys', as they are popularly called, at the different motor parks and bus stops have been on the increase. As days pass by, many drivers lose fortunes to these 'miscreants', and many conductors receive different types of wounds for failing to comply... A lot of factors have been adduced as being responsible for this reign of lawlessness. According to Blessing Adesanya, Chairman, Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, Ogba branch, the problem stems from the economic situation in the country. He said lack of employment opportunities accounts mainly for why some youths resort to touting, harassment of people and extortion of money from helpless citizens. If the government's economic policies had provided enough opportunities for these youths to be usefully engaged, he said, the country would not have had as many crises to manage. But, because there are less job opportunities, "these miscreants

> ", as he described them, vent their anger on the public, hoping to make up for what the government has denied them..

Is it true that the government had denied these youths job opportunities? The government, as referred to here, is political office holders. Hundreds of thousands of youths in Nigeria roam the streets without jobs. Among the leading nations in crude oil production, Nigeria ranks the sixth. Politicians are supposed to "allocate" the revenue accruing from "scarce commodities' among the citizens who elected them into office. Since the distribution or allocation is ineffective, no wonder violence becomes the order of the day in some Nigerian cities.

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is the flow station of Nigeria's oil wealth. Between 2005 and 2007, militant youths from the region embarked on kidnapping expatriates known to be professionals in the oil production. Large sums of money were demanded as ransom from relations or employers of the victims. Some of these demands were met, if not in full, at least, half way, by desperate relations. Edmund Daukoru who was the energy minister during the presidency of Olusegun Obasanjo, visited Lagos in October 2006 during the occasion of the commissioning of the first NNPC floating station. Lucas Ajanaku reported that the energy minister declared that if he were a foreign investor, he would not commit his funds to the delta part of Nigeria for security reasons (Ajanaku 2007:40). Furthermore, Ajanaku expatiated on Daukoru's observation as indicated below (ibid):

> The minister's statement underscores the grave security situation in the region. In an interview with the magazine later that day, he disclosed that more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil per day, bpd, was already shut in as a result of the restiveness of youths of the region. Nenadi Usman, finance minister, said a whopping N570 billion was lost last year to the ongoing crisis in the region where vandalism of oil facilities and hostage-taking of foreign oil workers for ransom have become a time- honoured predilection. No fewer than 100 expatriate oil workers are said to have been kidnapped at different periods in recent times. The crisis is already taking its toll on ongoing projects in the region,

> especially the West African Gas Pipeline, WAGP, project, which is expected to transport gas from Nigeria to Benin Republic, Togo and Ghana. It constitutes a threat to ongoing independent power plant, IPP, projects whose turbines are expected to be fired by natural gas from the troubled region.

Mismanagement of the economy is a powerful tool in the hand of the dragon. Millions of dollars worth of crude oil is exported overseas from the delta region of Nigeria. A visit to the hundreds of hamlets and villages that constitute the region will convince whoever that little is being done to raise the standard of living of the indigenes. A resort to violence becomes the only fruitful alternative. Violence and militancy also create an enabling environment for stealing of crude oil. "Bunkering" (illegal siphoning of crude oil) is a critical business in the area. It is alleged that revenue accruing from the bunkering is used by militants to import assorted weapons.

"Bunkering" has encouraged oil pipeline vandalization. Vandalization of oil pipelines in turn, has led to oil pipeline explosions which have claimed the lives of thousands in southern Nigeria. It is a vicious circle. The schemer and planner of the whole ugly episode is Satan. He is the one who blindfolds some politicians with the spirit of greediness. Few individuals amassing national wealth to the detriment of thousands and who, as a result, are roaming the streets hungry and jobless.

The Bible makes it clear that those who oppress and suppress the poor will suffer the consequences of their actions. The consequences are inescapable. Sooner or later the results will come. An individual who hoards the wealth that could be shared among hundreds of thousands of indigenes is a murderer. James mentions that those involved will weep:

> Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you

> kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you **(5:1-6).**

It is not only in the oil sector that demons are active but in every sector of existence that allows the wheels of economy to propel. God-fearing people have been advised to "Be patient, therefore, brothers until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and late rains" **James 5:7.**

The life of an individual is worth so much that God "gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" *John 3:16 KJV.* In the absence of the hope of eternity as already provided in Jesus, life in this world is meaningless. Some police officers in Nigeria were dismissed from work for extorting money from bus drivers while on a regular road check. The extorted funds were hidden in police cap (Omoarelojie 2007:3). This issue is an embarrassment that has refused to decline in Nigeria. It was also reported that some of the military men deployed to keep the militants at bay, joined in the unprofessional habit (ibid).

What is at stake here is not the police or army officers extorting bus drivers while on duty. The issue is the frightful level of poverty in a country soaked in oil wealth. The House of Representatives on the 31st of January 2008, debated the energy crisis and the state of emergency on the sector as proposed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Among the pieces of information given was that $10 billion was spent on the energy sector between 1999 and 2007. The observable result of this expenditure was that instead of the electricity improving, it had declined below the level it was in 1999 before the $10 billion was made available.

Police officers have wives and children. They also have relations to carter for. When human wants become frightfully unavailable, a desperate situation is

created. This situation leads to corruption at all levels of the society. But will Satan allow politicians to become generous, allocating the scarce commodities willingly and meaningfully to the electorate? The Satan will not. He is a deadly politician. He hates everyone born into this world because of the price Jesus has paid for us. Let us take a look at what happened in Israel in the days of politicians like Jeroboam II (793-753 BC). Amos, the prophet of God, lamented the evil that was being perpetrated in northern Israel - Samaria. He says:

> For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals - those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted... (2:6-7).

Amos says the poor in Israel in his time were sold "for a pair of sandals". He also explained that dwellers in the hills of Samaria oppressed the poor and crushed the needy. Rich women encouraged their corrupt husbands to amass wealth to the detriment of the poor Amos 4:1-2. What hope does this uncanny situation offer the poor? Is there a way the needy could extricate themselves? How can the poor overcome this gloomy future? It is God, not the devil, who has the final say. Northern Israel paid dearly for its nonchalant attitude towards the governing principles of love as prescribed by God and available in nature.

Amos declared that "virgin Israel" had fallen to rise no more (5:2). In the year 722 BC, God allowed king Shalmanezzar V of Assyria to conquer northern Israel, destroy their ivory palaces, pillage their gold, silver and precious stones and carry away survivors into captivity. The Assyrian king brought foreigners (pagans) to occupy northern Israel. The descendants of these foreigners were known as the Samaritans in the time of Jesus.

God is very active in the affairs of men as well as in the affairs of every country on the face of the earth.

The military leader of Nigeria, Sanni Abacha, made history with his policies, some of which were obnoxious. Dele Agekameh reports that: "Barnabas Jabila, also known as Sergeant Rogers, had a promising career in the army for his courage and marksmanship but he derailed by turning his guns on innocent Nigerians in

a seeming endless orgy of bloodletting during Abacha's reign of terror" (Agakemeh 1999:14-20). Abacha's death in 1998, prepared the ground for Nigeria to return to democratic governance. God intervened in history to pull Nigeria back from the brink of war. Some political decisions can make or wreck a nation. The fear of God remains the beginning of wisdom.

It must be understood that politicians are human beings with fallen nature. Unless under the control of the Holy Spirit, politicians will manifest high degree of self centredness. The devil wants to rule or sit at the throne. It does not matter what it takes. Pilate the governor of Judea who crucified Jesus was convinced that Jesus was innocent **John 19:4.** For political reasons, he handed Jesus over to be crucified. He was scared of the Jews presenting a negative report about him to Caesar Tiberius. His priority was to secure his political office. At the end, he lost everything. He died in exile in Gaul. Pilate's selfish ambition led him to murder. Political office holders are in danger of losing out. Temporary successes resulting from manipulations of laid down policies will not metamorphose into permanent victories. They soon lose their glamour.

Nigeria is a populous country recording over 167 million inhabitants. But for the grace of God, it would have disintegrated. The dragon needs nations with the kind of caliber of personalities Nigeria produces. He could use them to destroy the lives of so many. If political office holders could see the spiritual forces arraigned against them, they would be more prayerful. All that they need to do is to surrender totally to God. God would open their eyes. This world does not really have much to offer. It is not worth destroying oneself or others for the petty things of this life. Good name is better and costlier than all the gold and silver put together.

Before the creation of this world, Satan had sought to overthrow God and occupy the lofty throne of the Deity. What an ambition! After all he is a created being. God is God and is older than time and space. The truth is that God is bigger than what humans understand as eternity; and the Scripture declares that He loves His creatures.

So far, Satan, through the pursuit of his self-centered ambition, has succeeded only in inflicting pains and misery on the human race. Political power happens to be his cheapest and strongest machinery in achieving the cowardly act. Many a time, he shrewdly succeeds in placing into the reigns of power political or spiritual invalids that spend their tenures manufacturing and executing injustices. The problems generated by such situations tend to distract many from the presence of the Life Giver, the God of heaven. The crisis generated by unconsecrated politicians, most times, plunges the nation into a mourning mood. Instead of discussing issues that move the country forward, precious time is wasted in an effort to clean up the mess carefully hatched by selfish leaders.

It sounds ridiculous. Leaders are elected to judiciously manage the scarce resources of the nation and equitably "allocate" them to their subjects with the intention of bringing succour to their lives. Rather than bring joy to the people, some leaders spend time creating crises that generate the spirit of complaints and regrets among the citizenry. They also shrewdly put machineries in place to enthrone themselves, thus perpetuating pain and misery.

Satan is a religion-political being. He uses the elements of religion to commit all the atrocities known to mankind. He knows that in the presence of war and bloodshed, human suffering will escalate. Traumatic experiences rob humanity the needed atmosphere to develop unhindered trust in God. Sometimes the reverse is the case; it could be in the presence of misery that the presence of God is discovered in somebody's life.

Jesus was born in a manger. The manger was located in a cave. His level of poverty was such that it would be difficult for anyone to be poorer than Jesus. He knows what scarcity is. He knows what it is to be cheated, hated, isolated, chastised, disgraced, miserable and betrayed by close friends. Jesus also knows and has experienced what it is to painfully die for those you love. To crown it all, Jesus is alive; He has defeated death. The intention of His visible presence within nature "is to transform it, and to redeem it from the oppression of sin" (Rodrigues 2000: 7-11).

In conclusion, this paper sees politics as an agency – a tool through which the

leader and the led could harmoniously breed a blossoming society. But greed in the human soul would not allow scarce resources to be equally distributed where needed. Biblical studies reveal that greediness with all the evil associated with it started with Lucifer, a cosmic rebel. Cosmic deliverance is coming. This freedom from the chains of political maneuvering is found only in Jesus Christ.

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