



Zuid-Afrikaansche Boer Republieke

ACCORDING TO BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

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By: Temporary Advisory Council (TAR), on behalf of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Boervolk*

Understanding "According to Biblical Principles"

In the context of the ZABR Draft Constitution, "according to Biblical principles" is understood as an approach to guide laws, decisions, and administrative processes through the application of the entire Bible (Old and New Covenant) as the highest authority, rather than selective interpretation or modern theological adjustments. This implies:

1. **Almighty Authority:** The Bible is regarded as the unchanging Word of the Almighty, providing direct guidance for all aspects of life, governance, and community (e.g., Leviticus 25:23 for land stewardship, Proverbs 16:33 for the casting of lots).
2. **Theocratic Application:** Decisions, such as the appointment of the Council of Judges (Chapter V, Article 9) and dispute resolution (Chapter VI, Article 10(d)), are grounded in Biblical precepts, with the Council of Judges serving as the interpretive body.

3. **Sociopolitical Integration:** It combines theocratic principles with socialist ideas, such as equality and collective welfare (e.g., Appendix G's land redistribution, Leviticus 25:10-13), reflecting the *Boervolk's* identity and historical values.
4. **Cultural Context:** The principles are applied within the historical cultural framework of the *Boervolk*, with references to traditions such as the Vows (Appendix C) and treaties (Appendix E).
5. **Use of the Lot:** The casting of lots (Proverbs 16:33), as a Biblical method for divine guidance, must be approached with reverence and awe and applied only in exceptional cases, since we must also use our sound judgment and not consult The Almighty on everyday matters, though it remains a sacred practice for significant decisions.

How the Bible Itself Says It Should Be Understood

The Bible contains internal indications on how it should be interpreted and understood, providing direct guidance for the ZABR's theocratic framework. Here are key texts from the 1933/53 Afrikaans translation and their implications:

1. **2 Timothy 2:15:** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This points to the necessity of accurate, contextual interpretation through an earnest search for truth, rather than subjective biases.
2. **2 Peter 1:20-21:** "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation; for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." This emphasizes that interpretation must be guided by divine inspiration, not human will.
3. **Isaiah 28:10:** "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little." This suggests that understanding comes through the gradual, systematic study of the entire Scripture, rather than isolated texts.
4. **1 Corinthians 2:13:** "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual." This supports the idea that the Holy Spirit is the key to correct understanding.

Implication for ZABR

The Bible itself requires a Spirit-led, contextual, and holistic approach, which the Council of Judges (Chapter V, Article 9) must follow through prayer and the casting of lots (Chapter

IV, Article 8) if necessary to eliminate human bias and ensure divine guidance, with the understanding that the lot is used only in exceptional cases with reverence.

Biblical Principles for Correct Interpretation

To ensure the Bible is "rightly" interpreted, we can derive a set of principles aligned with the ZABR's theocratic vision, the *Boervolk's* traditions, and the Bible's own indications. These principles will likely be applied by the Council of Judges:

1. **Spirit-Led Understanding:** Interpretation must be guided by prayer and the Set-apart Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:13), with the casting of lots (Proverbs 16:33: "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.") as a practical expression thereof, as in 1 Samuel 10:20-24, but only in exceptional cases with reverence and awe, since we must also use our sound judgment and not consult The Almighty on everyday matters.
2. **Holistic Approach:** The entire Bible must be considered (2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable..."), with clearer texts providing illumination (Isaiah 28:10), to avoid selective or one-sided reading. No book of the Bible is superior in authority or subordinate to any other book of the Bible.
3. **Internal Explanation:** The Bible itself must be the primary source for interpretation ("Scriptura Scripturam interpretatur"), with cross-references ensuring consistency (e.g., Leviticus 25:23: "The land shall not be sold permanently, for it is Mine" with Matthew 22:39: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself"). Extra-Biblical books (e.g., historical commentaries) can serve as supplementary but not override the text.
4. **Cultural Anchor:** Interpretation must reflect the historical cultural context of the Boer Volk (Appendix C, E), as an expression of the Almighty's will for this people, in line with traditions such as the Vows.
5. **Moral Integrity and Consensus:** The Council of Judges (Chapter V, Article 9) and Peoples Council (Chapter VI, Article 10(d)) must act with high moral standards (1 Timothy 3:1-7) and community input to overcome subjective differences.

How It Overcomes Differences

The differing interpretations between churches (e.g., Calvinism vs. Arminianism) are addressed by:

1. **Central Authority:** The Council of Judges serves as a unifying authority, establishing one interpretation for the ZABR, rather than allowing multiple church disciplines.

2. **Biblical Literalness:** The focus on the full Word and traditional practices (e.g., lot-casting in exceptional cases) limits modern or liberal interpretations that deviate from the *Boervolk's* roots.
3. **Cultural Filters:** The *Boervolk's* specific historical lens (e.g., Vows at Blood River) and unique identity is used as a standard, excluding other theological streams that do not align with it.

Practical Application

1. Example: If a dispute arises over land redistribution (Appendix G, Section 4), the Council of Judges will use Leviticus 25:10-13 ("You shall consecrate the fiftieth year...") as the primary text, test it with New Covenant principles like Matthew 22:39, and cast lots only as an exceptional, reverent decision-making method if necessary. Extra-Biblical studies (e.g., historical land treaties) can provide context but not lead the interpretation.
2. Difference with Churches: While churches may differ, the ZABR's approach is standardized through the Council of Judges' Spirit-led, Bible-based consensus, prioritizing the *Boervolk's* unique tradition.

Conclusion

"According to Biblical Principles" in the ZABR context is a dynamic but rigorous framework that positions the Bible as the sole authority, anchored in a spirit-guided, holistic, and internally consistent interpretation, adapted to the *Boervolk's* historical cultural identity. The definition above reflects the Bible's own directions and the principle that the Bible explains itself using the full Bible, with extra-biblical sources as supplementary.