



“The Politics of Pilgrims”

Philippians 3:17-4:1

“The Politics of Pilgrims”



Can Christians be actively engaged in politics?

Can / should Christians vote?

Can Christians be members of a political party?

Can Christians run for political office?

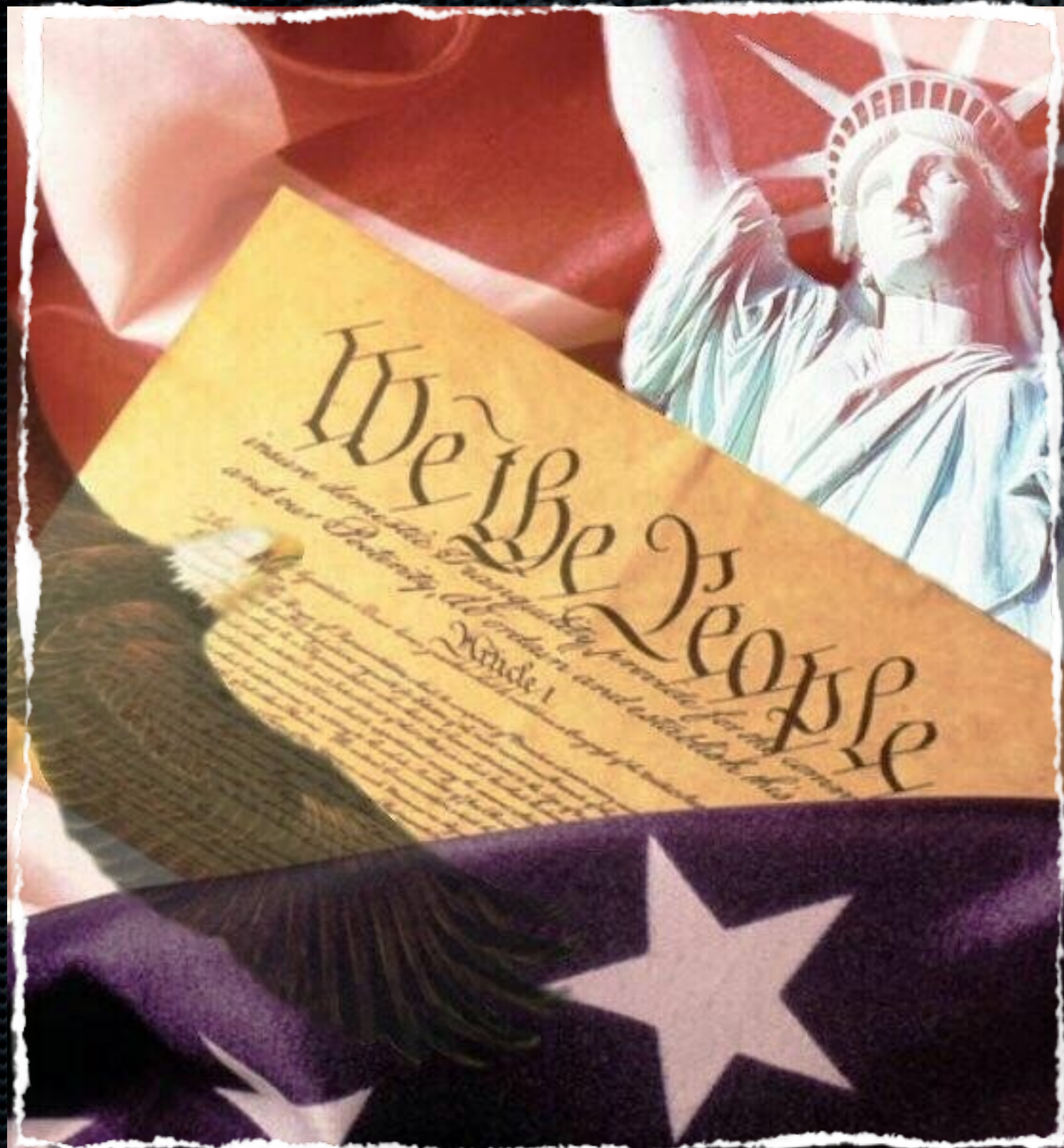
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Daniel 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

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Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

¹ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

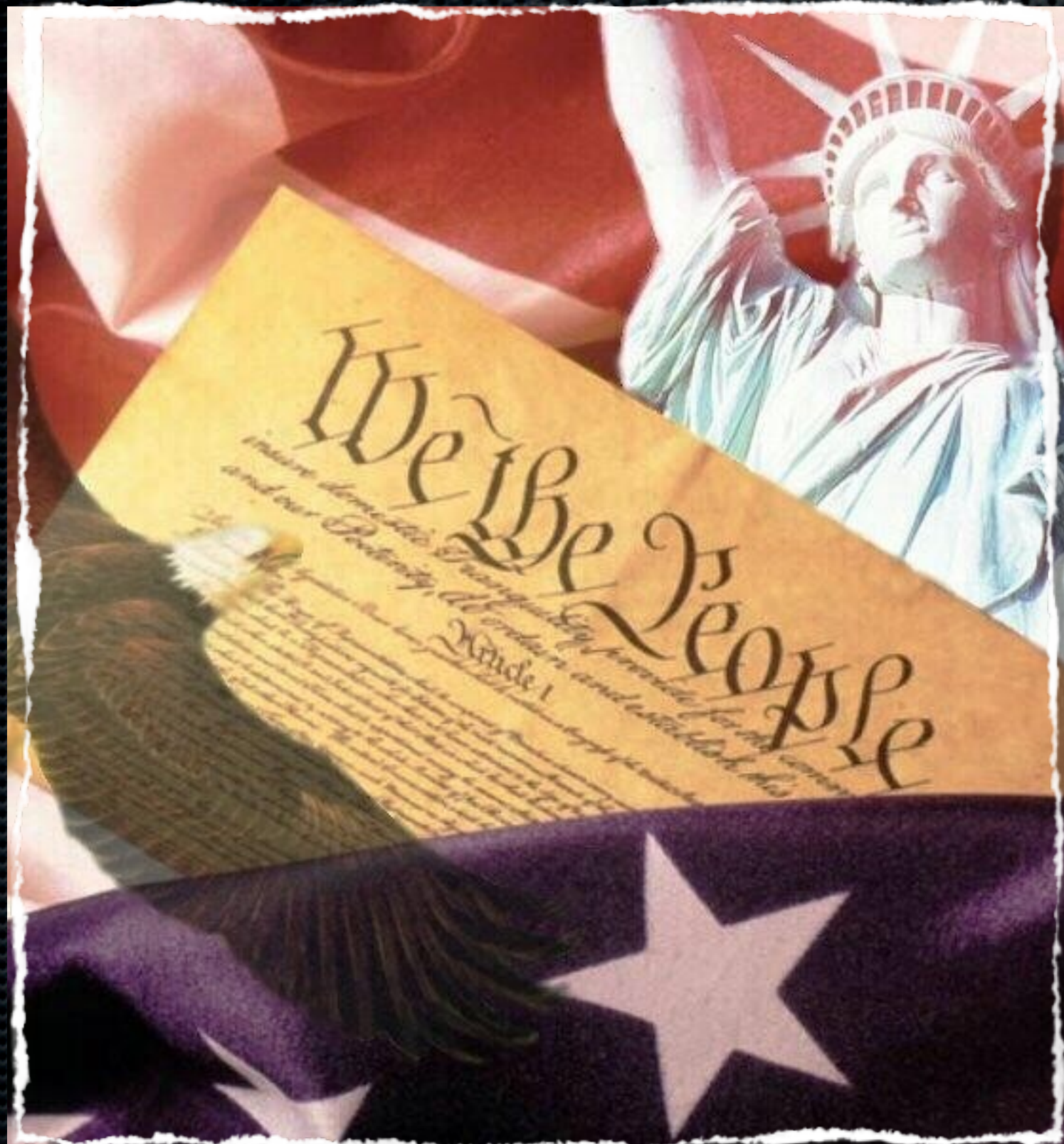
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Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

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Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.

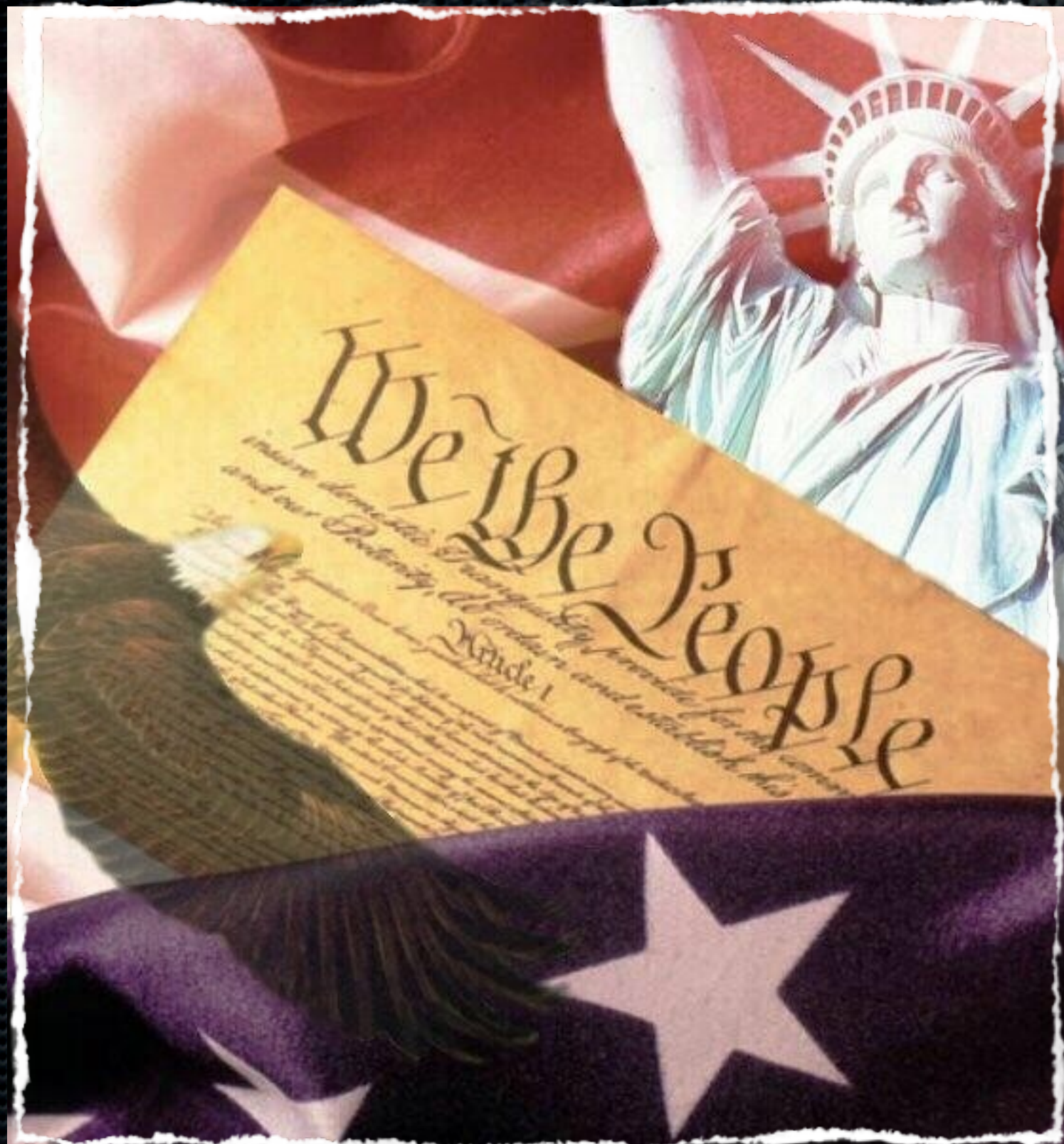
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Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

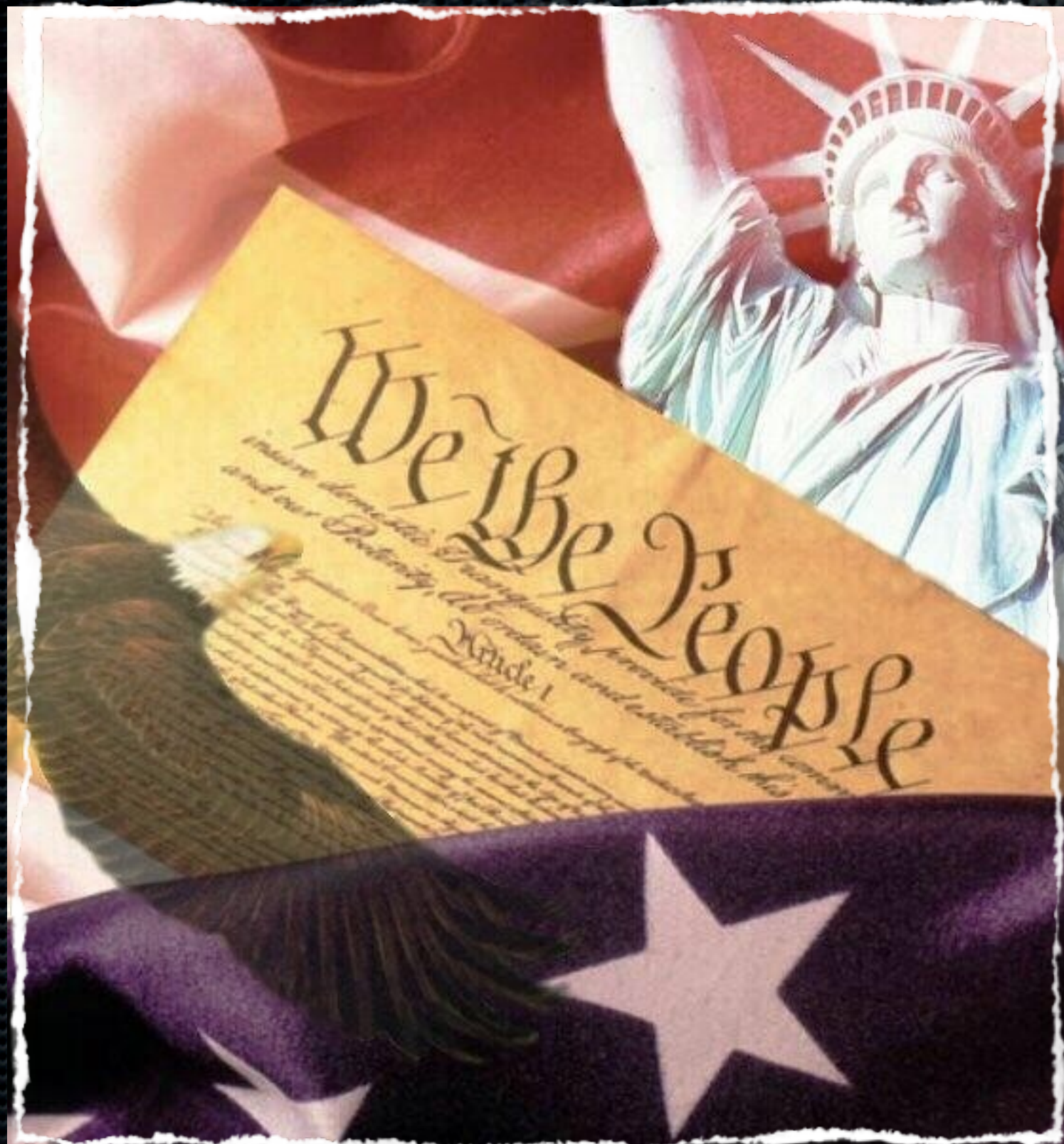
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Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV)

² When the
righteous are in
authority, the
people rejoice;
But when a
wicked man rules,
the people groan.

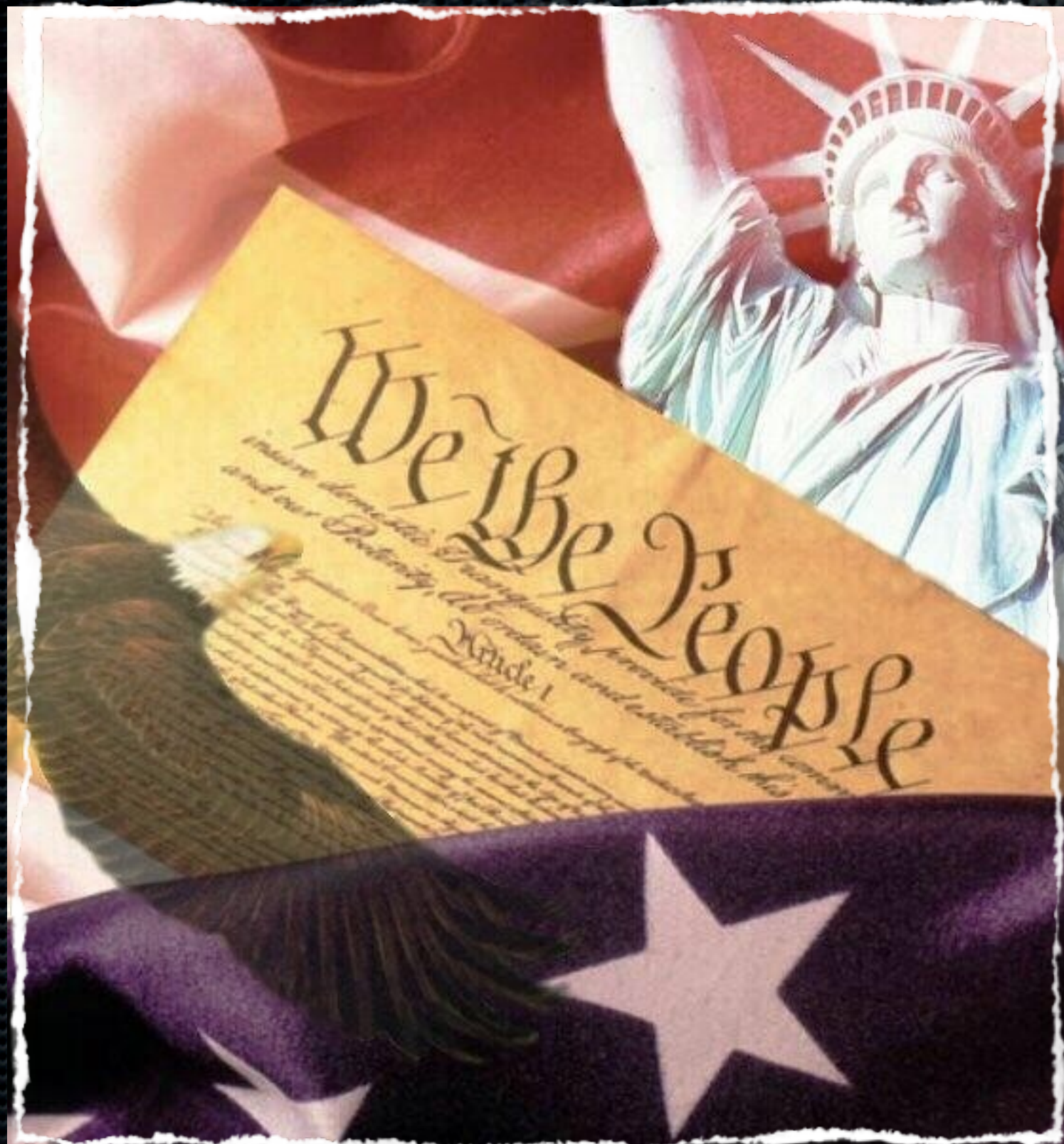
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Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

34 Righteousness
exalts a nation,
But sin is a
reproach to any
people.

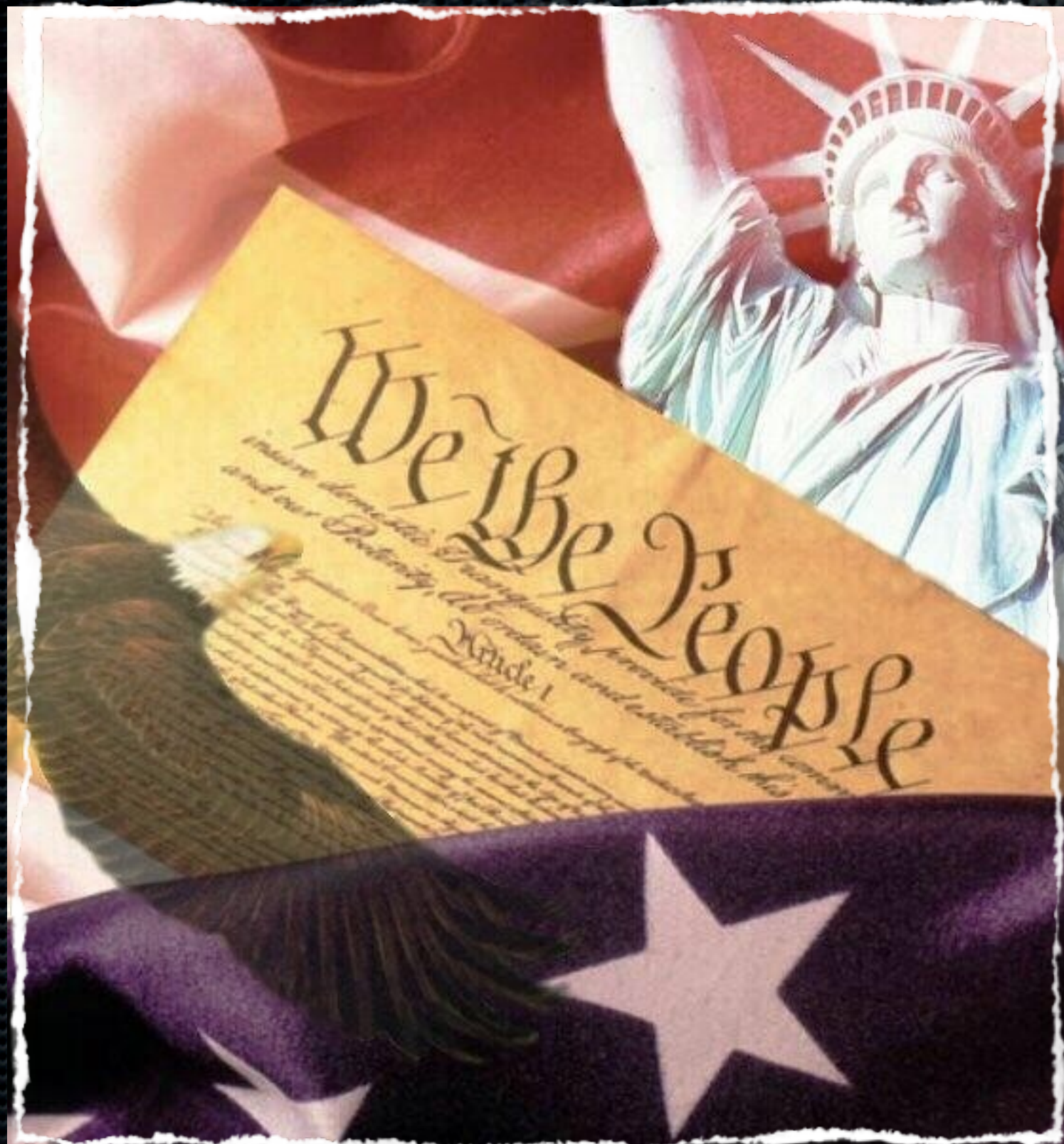
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1 Timothy 2:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

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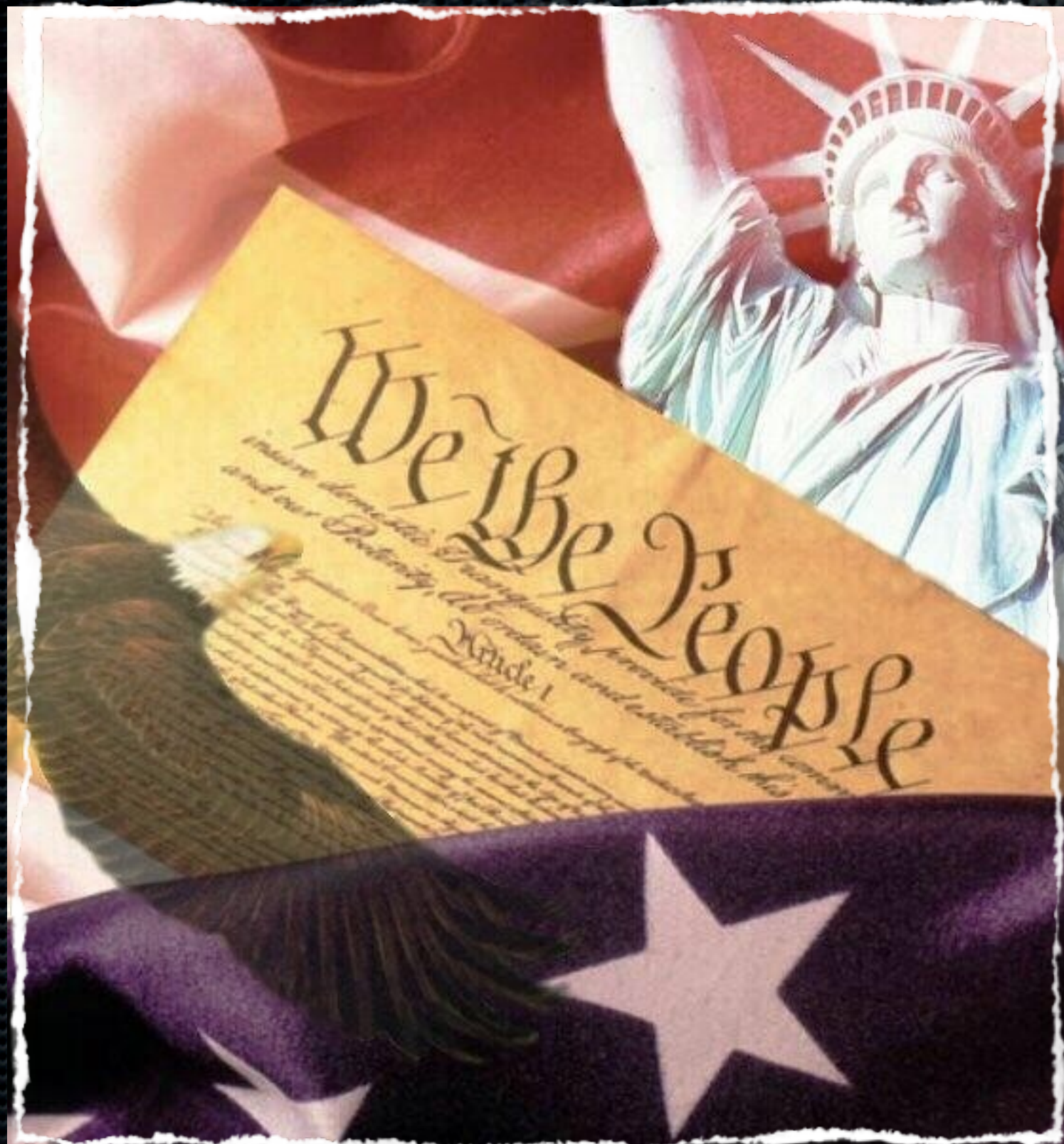


1 Timothy 2:1-3 (NKJV)

² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

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Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Philippians 3:17–4:1 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things.

Philippians 3:17–4:1 (NKJV)

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

4:1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

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- Paul's imprisoned in Rome as he wrote.
- Rome was a city of gross immorality and great hostility toward the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Nero, the epitome of evil, was the ruler of the empire. (54-68 AD)

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- He contrasts the politics of two kingdoms: earthly and heavenly. - (cf. Col. 1:13)
- Paul says, “Our citizenship is in heaven.” - (cf. Eph. 2:19)
- We who are of a heavenly kingdom confront an enemy both seen and unseen - (Phili. 3:18,19; Eph. 5:5,6; 6:10-18)
- The enemy is not government itself - but wickedness - (Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Cor. 10:4)

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Approved Path Has Been Given

Philippians 3:17 (NKJV)

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

-  Paul is speaking of following Him as he followed Christ in accordance to the gospel - (4:9; 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Thes 1:6; 2:10-14)
-  Paul's aim in life was to please & serve the Lord - (3:12-14)
-  Paul wanted others to join him, along with others already identified as followers of Christ - (3:15-17)

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Sadly, Many Are Walking Towards Destruction

Philippians 3:18,19 (NKJV)

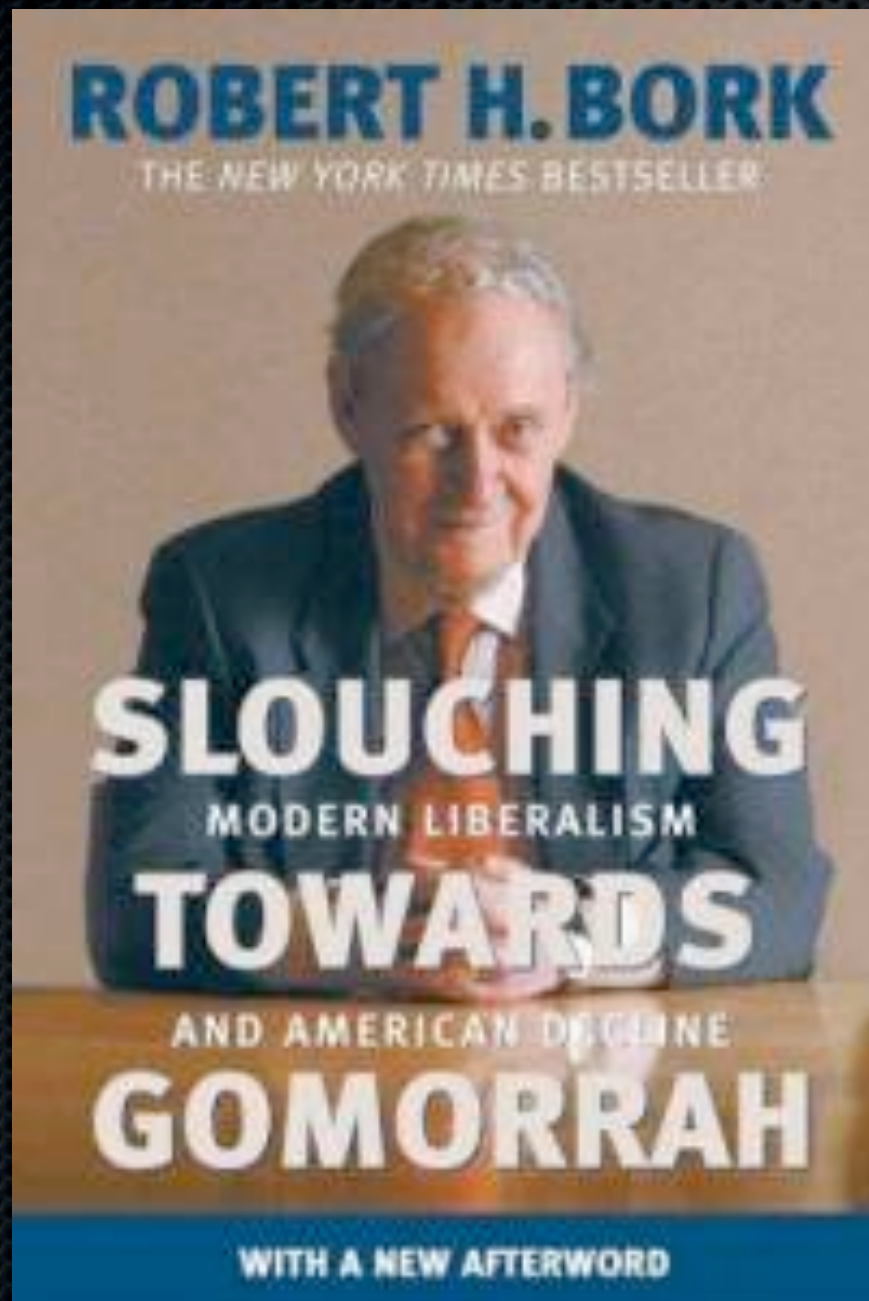
¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
¹⁹ whose end is destruction . . .

- 📌 The road to destruction has always been wide & broad - (Mat. 7:13,14; Gen 6; Ex. 23:2)
- 📌 Our attitude towards the lost should be the same - (Luke 19:10; Mat 9:13; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8,9; 1 John 4:9-14)
- 🌀 Our opposition to wickedness is to be motivated by love -

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Satan’s Realm of Darkness

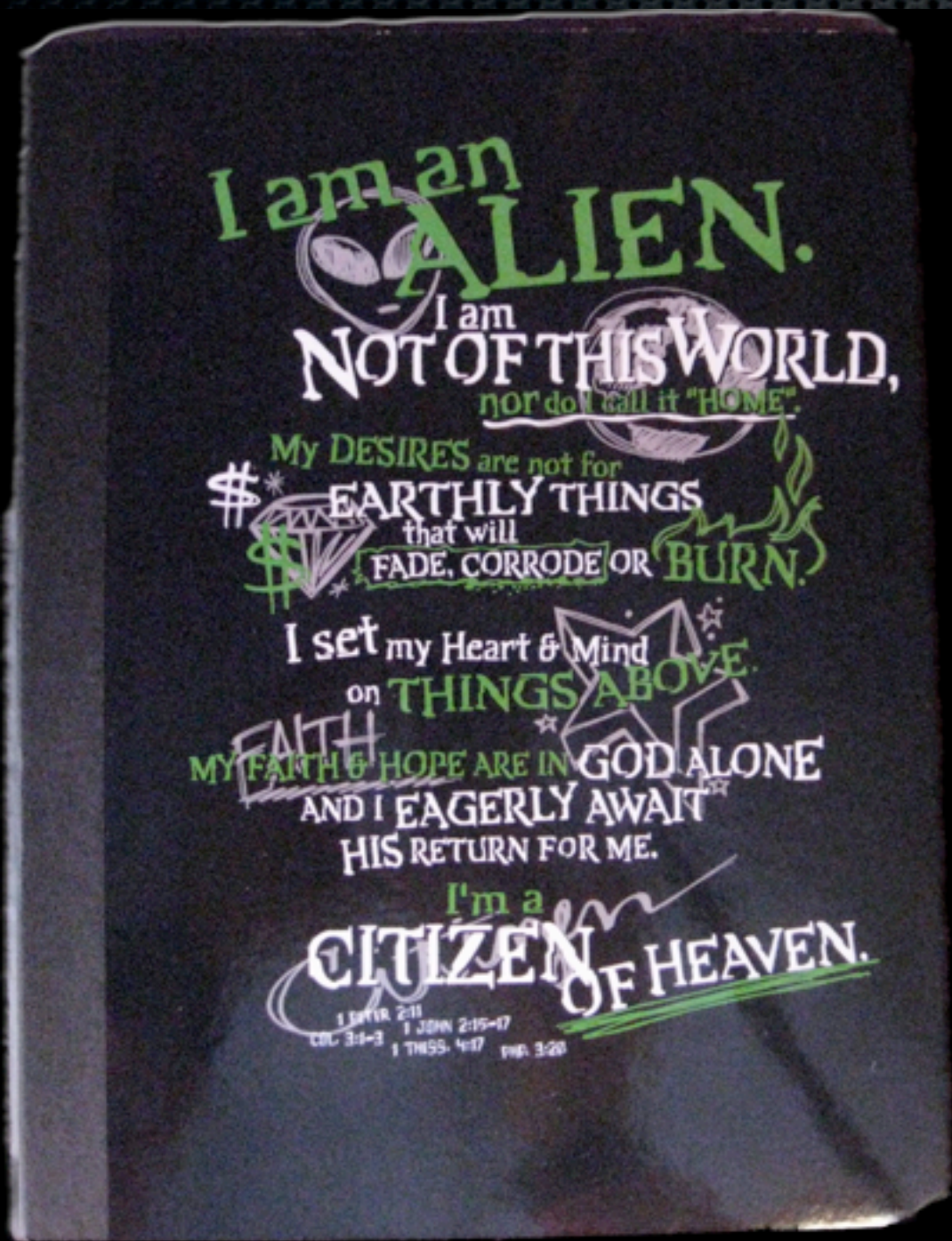
The Path To Destruction



- Antagonistic to the cross of Christ - 3:18; Rom 1:18
- Appetites that are sensual - 3:19; Rom 1:21-32
- Take pride in their wickedness - 3:19; Rev. 18:7
- Affections that are earthly - 3:19; Luke 12:15; Col. 3:1,2

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Citizens of Heaven



- Heaven is our homeland - Heb 11:13-16; 1 Pet 1:3-9
- In order to arrive safely home - we must follow the Lord's directions - 1 Pet 1:17; 2:11; Heb. 12:1-3
- We must set our mind & heart on heaven - Rom. 12:1-3; Col. 1:1-3

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Focusing On Things Of Heaven

Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)

For our citizenship
is in heaven, from
which we also
eagerly wait for the
Savior, the Lord
Jesus Christ,

- 📌 **Allegiance** - (3:20) - In Rome the cry was, “Caesar is lord.” Christians said, “No, Jesus is Lord.”
- 📌 **Aspirations** - (3:21; 2 Tim 4:6-8) - The resurrection - heaven!
- 📌 **The Right Foundation** - (4:1) - Whatever the temporal & physical consequences, I must stand fast in the Lord! - (Mat 7:24-27)
- 📌 **The Right Message** - (4:3) - The gospel - the truth - (cf. 2 Cor. 10:4)

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Focusing On Things Of Heaven

Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)

For our citizenship
is in heaven, from
which we also
eagerly wait for the
Savior, the Lord
Jesus Christ,

The Right Mind Set - (4:2)

- ★ **Joy** - (4:4) - refuse to be discouraged by our circumstances
- ★ **Be gentle** - (4:5) - not a troublemaker!
- ★ **The Lord is at hand** - (4:5) - the Lord is with us! - (4:13)
- ★ **Don't fear, pray** - (4:6,7) - Do not hope in people & trust in the Lord!
- ★ **Think Right** - (4:8) - meditate on the truth and promises of God!
- ★ **Do Right** - (4:9) - so you can be at peace with God

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I Am Resolved



- 📌 **I will not be intimidated -**
(4:1)
- 📌 **I will not despair -** (4:4) -
- 📌 **I will not be distracted -**
(4:8)
- 📌 **I will not compromise -**
(4:9-13)
- 📌 **I will not quit -** (3:17,20,21;
4:22,23)

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Sadly, Many Are Walking Towards Destruction



**The answer to the
problems our
country faces is
not political - but
spiritual
Jesus Christ**



citizens *of* heaven

Are You A Citizen of Heaven?

Believe that Jesus is the Christ & Confess Him

Repent of your sins

Be buried with Him in baptism

Live for Him!!

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