

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 112

ARE WE A DEMOCRACY?

Our Foundering Fathers spent a great deal of time writing and revising our United States Constitution and our Bill of Rights before they were satisfied that our nation would begin as a republic and not a democracy. Do you recall our pledge of allegiance? We do not say that the flag of the United States stands as a symbol of a democracy. In our pledge we say that our flag stands as a symbol of a republic. *“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”*

The government of a republic is based upon and is supposed to be confined to following rules and laws that were framed in their constitution. In the case of the United States, our beginning rules and laws also included 10 amendments to our constitution known as the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights, for the most part, spelled out the protection that would be afforded all of our citizens.

A democracy, on the other hand, would have allowed the majority to rule the minority. If a majority of people of one race or a majority of people of one color would have wanted to, they could have denied the rights and equality of those in the minority.

Is a republic the best type of government? NO! The nation of Israel had the best type of government when they began as a nation. Soon after they were delivered from Egyptian captivity, they met with God at the foot of Mt. Sinai (*Exodus 19:1 through 20:17*). They agreed that their form of government would be a true theocracy. In a true theocracy, a wise and benevolent God rules the nation. Israel agreed to be under the authority of the Lord. The lives and actions of the nation were to be governed by His laws. *“⁵Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:” Exodus 19:5 New International Version*