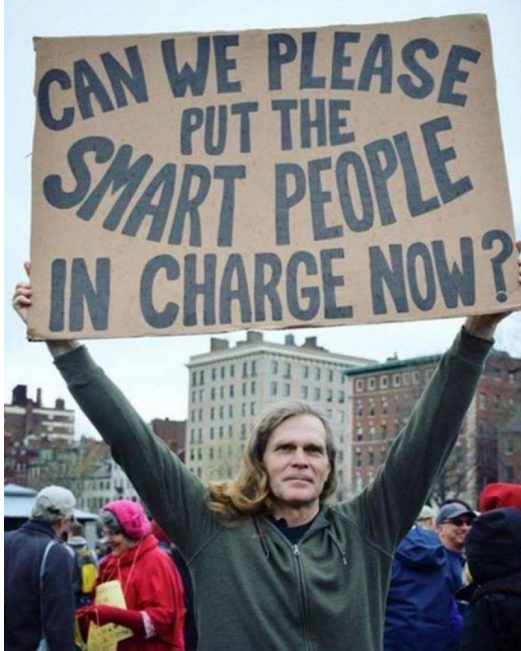


Deut. 17:14-16 KINGS FOR THE PEOPLE MUST BE KINSMEN

Deut. 17:14-16 "When you have entered the land ADONAI your God is giving you, have taken possession of it and are living there, you may say, 'I want to have a king over me, like all the other nations around me.' 15 In that event, you must appoint as king the one whom ADONAI your God will choose. **He must be one of your kinsmen, this king you appoint over you — you are forbidden to appoint a foreigner over you who is not your kinsman.**



Adonai said that any king chosen to lead the people must be a kinsmen, meaning, he must be of the same bloodline of the people. By Hebrew definition, a kinsman was a male relative, a man sharing the same racial, cultural, or national background as another; "one who has the right to redeem". Since an Israelite could sell himself, his family or his land (Lev. 25:39-43) in cases of poverty, the kinsman-redeemer (Lev. 25:25), was provided to protect the clan. This person, a near relative, had the first option by law to buy any land being sold, thus allowing it to be kept within the clan (Lev. 25:23-28, Jer. 32:6-10). In the story of Ruth (Ruth 4), we see a perfect example; Boaz, a near kinsman of Naomi (Ruth's mother-in-law), acted as a redeemer in accordance with the law, and married Ruth.

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Jerry Hennig (Jan/25)
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