



# HOLY EMPIRE OF NEW ISRAEL CONSTITUTION

## **Article I: General Principles**

**Section 1:** The Holy Empire of New Israel is a sovereign state with Christianity as its official religion. These articles in addition to the Word of God contained within both Old and New Testaments (the Catholic canon promulgated by the Council of Carthage in A.D. 397) as well as the Code of Laws, shall form its Constitution.

**Section 2:** English and Ecclesiastical Latin are the official languages of the Holy Empire; English, in which the government shall operate. The state will promote the study of the ancient languages for the edification and enlightenment of the citizens of the Holy Empire.

**Section 3:** The official calendar is the Gregorian calendar. Movable public holidays, e.g. Easter Day, shall be in accordance with the Gregorian calendar as used by the western Catholic church. Every Sunday (the Lord's Day and the Sabbath) shall be a holiday. All non-essential work—i.e. other than that which is in public or spiritual service, or that which is agricultural—shall be discouraged on the Lord's Day. The state shall have authority to punish those who conduct business on days where it is forbidden, including the Sabbath, in a manner prescribed by law.

The sale of alcohol and intoxicating liquors shall be forbidden on the Sabbath.

**Section 4:** The flag of the Holy Empire shall be the Christian flag, consisting of a white field with a blue canton containing a red cross. The Emperor shall designate the war ensign.

**Section 5:** The seal of the Holy Empire shall be a shield divided by a red cross with a Solomonic Lion in the top left corner, the Chi Rho in the top right, the Star of David in the bottom left and the Great Seal of the United States in the bottom right. Thirteen stars, representing the thirteen colonies, shall also be placed on the red cross.

**Section 6:** The capital of the Holy Empire is the city of Augustinople, which shall be the seat of the government.

**Section 7:** The governing authorities shall appoint various public holidays, and shall uphold important Christian festivals, including Epiphany, Easter (Pascha), the Ascension, Pentecost and Christmas.

**Section 8:** Treason against the Holy Empire, shall consist only in levying war against the Holy Empire, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

**Section 9:** The State reserves the right to prohibit any publication or trade of any media and to remove it from public availability should it be blasphemous, or seditious, or heretical, or harmful.

The State reserves the right to prosecute individuals and associations in support of blasphemous, seditious, heretical, or harmful ideologies.

**Section 10:** Every one who acknowledges Christ to be the Creator, preserver, and ruler of all things, and teaches or undertakes nothing against the state, or against the common peace, is at liberty to settle, stay, and carry on his trade.

## **Article II: On the Imperial Diet**

**Section 1:** The Imperial Diet is the college of electors of the Holy Empire, and is established for the sacred task of electing the New Israeli emperor.

**Section 2:** The Imperial Diet is formed also with the authority to convene as it pleases, with especial authority to abolish the decrees of Congress.

**Section 3:** The vacancy of the throne by means of abdication, death or removal shall convene a conclave of the Imperial Diet of the Holy Empire.

**Section 4:** The Imperial Diet consists of seven princes from seven of the states of the Holy Empire (thus there shall always be at least seven states). The prince-electors of the Holy Empire are appointed by the Emperor.

**Section 5:** The election of the emperor shall proceed first with considerations: whom the former emperor has recommended for the throne, whether any eligible heirs are present in the former emperor's progeny, &c.

**Section 6:** The Imperial Diet shall then determine whom, in accordance with the prerequisites established by this Constitution, is to be elected emperor of New Israel.

**Section 7:** If perchance the Imperial Diet elects an emperor under the age of twenty-one years, they may in their own judgment choose to appoint an imperial Vicar, to guide the emperor to adulthood and future governance of the nation. The Vicar of the Holy Empire has all imperial authorities as outlined in this Constitution, and is subsequently bound to the prerequisites herein; namely that he be a good Christian man, at least twenty one years in age. If following appointment the Imperial Diet does not feel the Vicar adequately meets these requirements, they are charged to appoint a new Vicar in the former's place.

**Section 8:** A woman, elected to the throne of the Holy Empire, shall not hold the title of Emperor; but rather the title of Empress. And her husband shall consequently be King. The powers of the Empress shall be those which would normally be the Emperor's, except for the power of assuming control of the Apostolate.

### **Article III: Imperial Powers**

**Section 1:** The emperor is ruler of the Holy Empire of New Israel, protector of the Christian faith, and of this Constitution. The emperor shall be executor and enforcer of law, with the authority to revise and otherwise modify the laws of the Holy Empire, promulgate decrees, &c.

**Section 2:** The Emperor of New Israel has authority, and it is his duty, to take order that unity and peace be preserved in the Church, that the truth of God be kept pure and entire, that all blasphemies and heresies be suppressed, all corruptions and abuses in worship and discipline prevented or reformed, and all the ordinances of God duly settled, administered, and observed. For the better effecting whereof, he has power to call synods, to be present at them and to provide that whatsoever is transacted in them be according to the will of God.

**Section 3:** The emperor will have the authority to appoint the rulers of the several states of the Holy Empire. As he sees fit, apostate, heretical or lethargic princes may be removed from their office.

**Section 4:** The emperor will have absolute authority, except where voided by these articles.

**Section 5:** The emperor may form imperial states with the approval of the Congress.

**Section 6:** The emperor may grant pardons and equally pronounce lawful sentences. The emperor may also grant reprieve.

**Section 7:** The emperor may negotiate treaties and execute declarations of war, with the advice and consent of the Congress.

**Section 8:** The emperor shall lead armed forces to repel invasions and suppress insurrections.

**Section 9:** The emperor shall appoint a sergeant-at-arms at his discretion to compel the Congress to order.

**Section 10:** The sons and daughters of the emperor are Princes and Princesses, by right of birth or adoption.

**Section 11:** The mother and father of the emperor and his wife are Grand Duke and Duchess of

the Holy Empire. All extended family, determined by the emperor, are lords and ladies of the Holy Empire. The emperor shall freely suspend a title of nobility for apostate, heretical, or unlawful behavior on part of any member of the nobility.

**Section 12:** Only Christians shall be privileged with royal titles and authority. This shall apply to all of the imperial government, including the emperor. No pagan shall be allowed to govern the nation as emperor. The ruler of the Holy Empire shall not take a pagan spouse. The emperor shall not engage in unlawful or treasonous activities contrary to the Gospel or these articles.

**Section 13:** The emperor shall be privileged from arrest, but the Imperial Diet by a 5/7 vote may remove the emperor from authority for treason, breach of the Word of God or the Constitution, lawlessness, immorality, &c. The removal of the emperor shall proceed an official conclave of the Imperial Diet to elect a new emperor.

**Section 14:** The emperor shall have the authority to delegate his own imperial powers to deputies, who shall oversee functions of the government concerning the press, the government, the finances of the nation, justice and education.

**Section 15:** The emperor may grant waiver to those men or women who are ineligible for offices in the Congress.

**Section 16:** The Emperor, upon assumption to the throne, shall take a holy oath in the presence of the Diet and the Congress, in which he shall pledge his fealty to God, the Church, and to the Holy Empire.

#### **Article IV: Imperial Congress**

**Section 1:** All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the Holy Empire.

**Section 2:** The Congress is unicameral and shall be composed of three benches; the Emperor and the prince-electors of the Diet (i), the kings and princes of the states of the Holy Empire, except the prince-electors (for they shall be in the first bench) and leaders of imperial circles (ii), and the leaders of the free imperial cities (iii).

**Section 3:** Acts of Congress will be passed by a majority vote. Each man shall, irrespective of his titles, shall have only one vote.

**Section 4:** All legislation shall be codified in the Code of Laws. The Code of Laws shall also appropriately cite decrees posted by the emperor and shall note the date said decree was posted (in the Gregorian calendar).

**Section 5:** The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section 6:** The members of the Congress shall receive a reasonable compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the Holy Empire. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of Congress, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in Congress, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the members of Congress, shall take effect, until it be approved by the Emperor.

**Section 7:** The Congress shall have the sole power to try all impeachments of public officials. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be under oath. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the Holy Empire. The party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

**Section 8:** The Congress shall be the judge of the returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as the Congress may provide.

The Congress shall not adjourn for more than three days while it is in session.

**Section 9:** The Congress may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of 3/4 of the members and the Emperor, expel another member.

**Section 10:** The Congress shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of Congress on any question shall, at the Desire of 1/5 of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

**Section 11:** The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the Holy Empire; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the Holy Empire.

**Section 12:** The Congress may borrow money on the credit of the Holy Empire where (i) money is needed for a valid purpose and (ii) the imperial treasury is insufficient in supplying monies.

**Section 13:** The Congress shall regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several imperial states.

**Section 14:** The Congress shall establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the Holy Empire.

**Section 15:** The Congress shall coin Money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the Standard of weights and measures.

**Section 16:** The Congress shall provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the Holy Empire.

**Section 17:** The Congress shall establish and shall have both jurisdiction and authority to maintain Post Offices and post roads, and shall as it sees fit have oversight over the postal service.

**Section 18:** The Congress shall promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for

limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

**Section 19:** The Congress shall define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations.

**Section 20:** The Congress may declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water.

**Section 21:** The Congress shall raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years.

**Section 22:** The Congress shall provide and maintain a Navy.

**Section 23:** The Congress shall make Rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval Forces.

**Section 24:** The Congress shall provide for calling forth the militia to execute the Laws of the Holy Empire, suppress insurrections and repel invasions.

**Section 25:** The Congress shall provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Holy Empire, reserving to the States respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

**Section 26:** The Congress shall exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such capital Augustinople, the seat of the government of the Holy Empire, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings.

**Section 27:** The Congress shall make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the Constitution, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the Holy Empire.



**Section 28:** The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

**Section 29:** No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

**Section 30:** No capitation, or other direct tax shall be laid.

**Section 31:** No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State.

**Section 32:** No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

**Section 33:** No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

**Section 34:** The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.

#### **Article V: Apostolate of the Holy Office of the Holy Empire**

**Section 1:** The Apostolate of the Holy Office of the Holy Empire is the governing body of the Christian church within the whole of the Holy Empire and is subservient to the first seven ecumenical councils promulgated by the Catholic Church, and further councils may be ratified as the Apostolate sees fit. The Apostolate is the defender of Catholics (east and west) and Protestants and the arbiter of peace between the two; but also the suppressor of heresy and impious (i.e., false) religion.

**Section 2:** The Apostolate, upon the ratification of these articles, is bound to accept the following ecumenical councils, which are also accepted to varying degrees by the eastern and western Catholic Church:

- The Council of Nicaea

- The First Council of Constantinople
- The Council of Ephesus
- The Council of Chalcedon
- The Second Council of Constantinople
- The Third Council of Constantinople
- The Second Council of Nicaea

The Quinsext Council, which some have compared to the Third Council of Constantinople, is not recognized, due to the emphasis on iconoclasm.

**Section 3:** The Apostolate shall be governed by the Grand Inquisitor of the Holy Empire, appointed by the holy Emperor of New Israel. The Emperor of New Israel may himself choose to take the mantle of the Apostolate upon himself. With the approval of the Imperial Diet, he may do this.

**Section 4:** Anyone who continues in a particular sin, or blasphemy, or knowingly teaches heresy (lies contrary to the Scriptures), must be indefinitely anathematized in the Holy Empire. The Apostolate may excommunicate heretics and blasphemers, and deny them the privilege of participation in the rites of Christian churches (including the reception of the sacraments).

The humiliation of a removal from the Christian Church is useful in bringing about repentance, and re-establishment of said heretic's relationship with our Lord (1 Corinthians 5:5). The servants of the Apostolate, or the Grand Inquisitor, may reconcile a heretic with the Christian church upon a genuine confession.

Every excommunicate is entitled to an appellate hearing before the Apostolate, or a representative appointed by the Grand Inquisitor.

**Section 5:** All actions of the Apostolate, including excommunications and theological positions, must be done according to Scriptural principles. No decision of the Apostolate shall be without a proof from scripture.

**Section 6:** The Apostolate may call for days of fasting, prayer, and humiliation, by itself, or general public consensus of the Christians of the Holy Empire.

**Section 7:** The Apostolate shall declare the liturgical calendar universal across the Holy Empire, and it should be in accordance with liturgical calendars practiced already by the Catholic Church and major Protestant sects in the Holy Empire.

**Section 8:** It shall be forbidden that a woman or unrepentant sinner become, or remain, a church archbishop, bishop, elder, deacon, or other high office pertaining to the administration of sacraments or the governing of the church at large.

**Section 9:** Iconoclasm shall be forbidden in the Holy Empire, and the crime of desecrating churches and sacred images shall be punished by the Holy Office in a manner prescribed by law.

**Section 10:** There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (Communion), Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

#### **Article VI: Imperial Chamber Court & the Aulic Council of the Holy Empire**

**Section 1:** There shall be, for the judiciary, two great courts, one, the Imperial Chamber Court, and another, the Aulic Council.

**Section 2:** The province of the Imperial Chamber Court shall be enforced by the Congress, and extend to breaches of the public peace, cases or arbitrary distraint or imprisonment, violations of the emperor's decrees, or laws passed by the Congress; disputes between the immediate tenants of the Holy Empire (those states represented in the Imperial Diet) or the subjects of different rulers, and suits against the imperial states. Those represented in the Imperial Diet *ex officio*, shall appoint the members of the Court. The Imperial Diet shall determine the composition of the court through a majority vote, and there shall be at least three but no more than twelve members of the Court.

**Section 3:** The Imperial Chamber Court shall from time to time provide the emperor with a summary of their proceedings.

**Section 4:** The province of the Aulic Council shall be enforced by the Congress, and extend to criminal charges against the rulers of the Holy Empire, namely those who govern the several states, or the members of the Imperial Congress, or the Diet. And the Aulic Council shall review

the petitions addressed to the emperor, and shall receive them with due consideration, and refer them to the emperor as they see fit (but shall not hold the emperor in ignorance of any important petition). The members of the Aulic Council shall be determined by Congress - there shall be at least three, but no more than twelve.

**Section 5:** Therefore, the Aulic Council shall from time to time provide the emperor with a summary of their proceedings, and the petitions they receive.

### **Article VII: Regarding the Imperial Circles**

**Section 1:** The Saxon Empire shall henceforth be an imperial circle of New Israel; the emperor of New Israel shall therefore hold the title of Saxon emperor.

**Section 2:** The Kingdom of Freihetia shall henceforth be an Imperial Circle of New Israel; the emperor of New Israel shall therefore hold the title of King of Freihetia.

**Section 3:** The appointment of the Saxon Empire or the Kingdom of Freihetia to the elector status within the Holy Empire is acceptable, but another elector shall be appointed in place of the emperor to represent Saxony and Freihetia in the Diet.

### **Article IX: Imperial States**

**Section 1:** New States may be admitted by the emperor with the approval of Congress into the Holy Empire; but no new States shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

**Section 2:** No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contract. No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws: and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the Holy Empire; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Imperial Congress. No state shall, without the consent of the Imperial Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter

into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

**Section 3:** Each state will be expected to maintain an active government and leadership at all times. In the event of the inactivity (i.e lethargic) of the government of the state, without express notice to the Imperial government, the Imperial Congress will be obligated to appoint new leadership for sake of efficiency.

**Section 4:** For the sake of efficiency, all state governments and courts retain jurisdiction over day-to-day spontaneous matters as they occur.

### **Article X: Rights of the People**

**Section 1:** The right of citizens to found organisations and to assemble in public gatherings shall not be infringed, and shall remain so uninfringed except if said organizations or assemblies militaristically oppose the state or the principles of the true Gospel upon which it is founded and according to which the citizens are governed.

**Section 2:** A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Any citizen committing accidental manslaughter must immediately alert the authorities in order to claim refuge.

**Section 3:** No soldier shall, in time of peace be forcibly quartered in any home, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**Section 4:** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Section 5:** No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any

person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.

**Section 6:** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

**Section 7:** In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the Holy Empire, than according to the rules of the common law.

**Section 8:** Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. This does not preclude corporal or capital punishment for a worthy offence, which has been properly sentenced by a court of law.

**Section 9:** The powers not delegated to the Holy Empire by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

**Section 10:** Citizens have the right to legally own property acquired by the work of their hands or by the charity of others as well as to inherit that property which has been owned by their forefathers. Private property is to be a commodity protected by the law.

**Section 11:** All men, from the age of 18, have the right to marry one woman each in the presence of God. All women, from the age of 18, have the right to marry one man each in the presence of God. Sexual activity, including that in images, outside of this holy union is forbidden and will be punished by law. All married citizens have the right to divorce on the grounds of adultery, abuse or of desertion by an unbelieving spouse. In such cases, remarriage is a right. In other cases, remarriage is forbidden unless the other spouse dies.

**Section 12:** All citizens are to be free from physical and mental abuse, including unfounded

damage to the reputation, by the government as well as by any other citizen.

**Section 13:** A sojourner shall be welcomed into the Holy Empire providing that (i) there are sufficient resources such as fuel and accommodation; and (ii) he is able to be self-sufficient; or otherwise (iii) can prove that he would be subject to undue and unusual suffering at the hands of his respective state contrary to the law of New Israel; and (iv) is willing to submit to the law and faith of the land; and, fulfilling these requirements, (v) holds a valid visa. The State reserves the right to extradite sojourners with sufficient notice.

### **Article XI: Economic principles**

**Section 1:** The right to private enterprise through honest and legal means is protected by the State.

**Section 2:** The State shall not practice eminent domain.

**Section 3:** The State will endeavor to deliver and protect all citizens from poverty where resources are available. This should lead to employment of the able-bodied/able-minded population and not to long-term dependence on the government.

**Section 4:** Citizens shall be encouraged to live within their means. In order to protect citizens from exploitation and from slavery to debt, usury shall be capped. No organisation, bank or lender of any kind may charge more interest than that which is to be defined in the Code of Laws.

**Section 5:** The formation of labor unions shall be forbidden.

**Section 6:** Houses of gambling in any imperial state or possession of the Holy Empire, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

### **Article XII: Perpetuity of the Holy Empire and the amending of the Constitution**

**Section 1:** The Holy Empire is perpetual.

**Section 2:** The Constitution may be amended by (i) a unanimous vote of the Imperial Diet; (ii) an approval from the Emperor issued in the form of an imperial bull.