

Lesson 2 (number 11) Resource: Truman’s Diary

An illustration of the close relationship between science and values can be seen in the private thoughts of President Harry S. Truman as expressed in his diary on July 25, 1945. Take a moment to read the excerpt. How does it illustrate the close relationship between science and values (or ethics) in President Truman’s mind?

*We met at 11 A.M. today. That is Stalin, Churchill, and the U.S. President. But I had a most important session with Lord Mountbatten and General Marshall before that. We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world. It may be the fire distruction [destruction] prophesied in the Euphrates Valley Era, after Noah and his fabulous Ark. Anyway we think we have found the way to cause a disintegration of the atom. An experiment in the New Mexican desert was startling--to put it mildly. Thirteen pounds of the explosive caused the complete disintegration of a steel tower 60 feet high, created a crater 6 feet deep and 1200 feet in diameter, knocked over a steel tower 1/2 mile away and knocked men down 10,000 yards away. The explosion was visible for more than 200 miles and audible for 40 miles and more.*

*This weapon is to be used against Japan between now and August 10th. I have told the Sec. of War, Mr. Stimson to use it so that military objectives and soldiers and sailors are the target and not women and children. Even if the Japs are savages, ruthless, merciless and fanatic, we as the leader of the world for the common welfare cannot drop this terrible bomb on the old Capitol or the new.*

*He and I are in accord. The target will be a purely military one and we will issue a warning statement asking the Japs to surrender and save lives. I'm sure they will not do that, but we will have given them the chance. It is certainly a good thing for the world that Hitler's crowd or Stalin's did not discover this atomic bomb. It seems to be the most terrible thing ever discovered, but it can be made the most useful* (Truman's writings are in the public domain).

Lesson 4 (number 5) Resource: Applying God’s Word to Ethical Situations—A Systematic Approach

1. Identify the science issue
2. Identify the related ethical issue
3. Identify the applicable scriptural principle(s)
4. Propose possible solutions or rules that apply to the dilemma
5. Continue to search the Scriptures and wrestle in prayer