

# Governance: As we close 2020...

- Published on December 24, 2020



## Ted Ramirez

Corporate Governance and Business Transactions

**14 articles**

*Thirteenth in a Series on Governance and Leadership*

*Spoiler Alert: This year-end edition considers matters of faith and scripture. If such things are not your cup of tea, please avoid three minutes of annoyance and look for our next in this series. Sincerest best wishes, Ted.*

In the beginning, it was about Governance. It remains so today. He placed in our care the treasure we now call Earth, our first Organization. As the Universe beheld the majesty of the planet and the life created for its habitation, angels hushed in awe. *“What a spectacular Creation! What risky business to entrust it to Humans,”* they might have whispered to one another.

But, in the beginning, all Creatures trusted in God, His creative majesty enshrined in a Love that knows no measure. The Universe celebrated the new Creation, having awaited its planning and execution with great anticipation.

The Governance of Earth was simple. A transparency so complete that Humans walked and talked with God. No clothes were needed. No “ten commandments” on signs or tablets to warn, parse and exegete. Governance was intuitive, pure, anchored by trust; unspoiled by ego, suspicion, manipulation, hiding. The “rules” and Compliance were the narrowest imaginable, freedom and openness virtually unlimited. *“By all the fruit of the Garden you may freely eat. But...”*

No boards, committees, audits, compliance systems. Everybody was “on the bus” and focused on the fresh stewardship of the Enterprise. No one *“moved my cheese.”* The birth of the ultimate Organization, a planet, fully operational, created with complete, life-sustaining systems. Humans deputized to exercise dominion over it all! Clarity of

mission, obvious standards and duty of care. Access to the ultimate Consultant on all things.

As we know sadly, however, our Earthly parents failed to achieve the most basic KRA's in history. How the Universe must have groaned. Scripture suggests at least one dark cohort who stage-whispered, *"See? I told you so!"* And Earth witnessed the origins of what we now call and endure as "reality." Good vs. Evil; best practice vs. *"no questions please."*

We live and work among the shards of those original, pure Governance systems. We dress ourselves in the "clothing" of systems: boards, committees, audits, regulations and all the rest of the trappings of broken efforts to do it right, stay on mission, and weed out the stuff that impedes. Often, given the "realities," we just *"put lipstick on that pig."* Our systems are fractured among the controllers and the controlled. The C-suite, rank and file, consultants, "independent" auditors, regulators and accreditors, the Feds, the AG's, the press, yadda, yadda, yadda.

But this week, we citizens of Earth pause to remember. For some, it's to remember that "Santa's on his way." And he knows who's been naughty or nice.

Others recall the recorded events whereby God deployed "Plan B," drawn up in Heaven's C-suite *"from the foundation of the earth."* A young girl, a nervous but ethical father, angels, shepherds, wise men en route to Bethlehem. *Emmanuel, God with us.* An anxious ruler-king, whose consultants' advice alarmed him, *"Confidential Report to King Herod – Eyes Only! Something very disruptive has occurred. The Ultimate Disrupter is out there in the form of a newborn."*

The recorded Gospel writers take it from there. The Disrupter arrives and lives to heal, save, and restore. The story leads, of course, to the Cross and Beyond. Those who walked with him write books about how the Organization moved beyond wrenching tragedy and now faces an eternal future of Hope. The Disrupter lives, has conquered death, and his Return as King lies ahead.

Governance restored. Governance as meant to be, and as we who try to practice it today still examine and study its principles. As in the Garden, Governance anchors in trust and transparency. The subjugation of ego and self-interest. Walking and talking openly together. No hidden agendas. No running and hiding by nervous, thin-skinned Lone Rangers. Facts on the table, fair notice and energetic evaluation of plans and the planning that goes into them.

As grown-ups, we have learned that the “simple” is illusive in execution. “Reality” and “how things really work around here” defy and wear down aspirations.

Yet, this truth still rings, “*By beholding we are changed.*” These few moments of Christmas present themselves to us for pause and reflection. We close a year loaded with heartbreak, confusion, anger, despair, and irretrievably broken dreams. (*One is tempted to muse, as everyone jokes about hurrying the close of 2020 and gasping for the New Year, what if **these** are the good old days?*)

Yet, alongside the woes of 2020, we see the sparkling stars of those around the world and in our own Communities who set aside fear, who threw themselves into the maw to save and heal, to lead forward and through the wreckage. Many of them died for us. We celebrate them all and their sacrifices for us. These heroes practice/d the urgent mission and methods of the Disrupter.

What and how much of all this might guide us into 2021? Do the ancient tools of Governance, transparency and selfless service, work in this broken world, in “***this Company?***” Can we rediscover a redemptive and cleansing use for compliance and systems, perhaps open discussion of what is working and what could use a trip to the Governance shop?

How blessed we are in this Season of celebration, tempered with sober reflection of what we saw and lived this year. A New Year, an open book, a clean page, all these lie just ahead. What can we do to restore the original principles of Governance? Let us see what we can accomplish together in 2021.

***Yours for Better Governance.***

© Ted L Ramirez

[www.ketteringlaw.net](http://www.ketteringlaw.net)