

## Government as God's Minister

- ❖ **How was justice brought in the OT (Deut. 28:49, Jer. 50:3, 51:27-28)?**
  - **Does the government have authority from God to use the sword and capital punishment (Rom. 12:17-13:5, John 19:11, 1 Pet. 2:13-17, Prov. 8:14-17)?**
    - *How should the government do this justly in policing and war?*
    - *What are just reasons for war?*
  - **Should we pay taxes because God has appointed government for justice (Rom. 13:6-7)?**
    - *Should we pay taxes when the government does evil (Matt. 22:17-21)?*
  - **Should we rise up against the government (1 Sam. 24:6, John 18:36, 2 Cor. 10:3-6, Isa. 2:2-4)?**
    - **Can we speak up against the government (Acts 4:19, 5:29, Titus 3:1-2)?**
  - **Can we participate in the government (22:25-29, 25:10-12, Phil. 4:22, 1:13)?**
    - *First of all, we obey God rather than men (Acts 4:19, 5:29).*
    - *Tax collector was not to repent (Luke 3:8, 12-13; 18:13-14, 19:2, 8-10).*
    - *The city treasurer was a Christian (Rom. 16:23, cf. Acts 8:27).*
    - *Soldiers were not to repent of being soldiers (Luke 3:8, 14, Acts 16:35-36 lit. "bond-guard", Acts 10:1-2).*
    - *Are soldiers guilty of murder and not obeying the command to love (Lev. 19:18, 1 Sam. 15:1-3, Num. 35:27)?*
    - *Can we defend our loved ones (Luke 22:35-38, Acts 16:27, Eph. 5:25)?*
  - **Can we use our rights (Acts 22:25-29, 23:1ff, 23:12-24, 25:10-12)?**
  - **How can we live in peace with government (1 Tim. 2:1-4, Prov. 2:21)?**

## Biblical Civil Government

### ❖ What are the divisions of our government and what do they do?

- What are the balances of powers? Who makes the laws?
- Can we learn from the government of Israel established by God (Rom. 15:4)?

### ❖ What kind of government did Israel have?

- **Israel's government was a judicial theonomy; *God made the laws* (Ex. 20, 24:7-8).**
  - *There was no need for a congress to make laws.*
- **The tribes were originally led by a senate of tribal elders, who would be elected to 70 (Exo. 3:16-18, 4:29-31, 12:21, 17:5-6, 18:12, Lev. 4:15, Num. 1:4-16, 11:16-18, Deut. 22:18, 29:10-15, 31:28, Josh. 8:10, 31-33, 24:1, 1 Kings 8:1, Ezra 10:8-14, Ezek. 8:1, 11-12, 14:1, 20:1-3, Mark 7:3, Acts 4:5-8, 6:12, 22:5, 25:15).**
  - ***The house of elders represented the people, acted as the high court, governed their militias, helped elect statesmen and officials, and was spiritually accountable for their people.***
  - ***Tribes were commanded by God to elect and give wise and experienced men to be leaders from among 10 men, then 50, 100, and 1000 forming a republic (Deut. 1:13-17, Ex. 18:21, cf. Deut. 5:23, 29:10, 31:28).***
  - *These leaders and elders formed the congregation (i.e. congress), who appointed judges (cf. Num 35:12, 24-25).*
- **Judges brought about justice and enforced the Law (Deut. 16:18-20, Num. 35:30).**
  - *These judges had a standard of evidence, made diligent inquiry, followed laws for punishment, and punished false witnesses (Deut. 17:4-7, 19:15-21, 22:22ff, 25:1-3).*
  - *Partiality was not to be shown to the rich or the poor, and false witnesses were punished according to their false accusations (Exo. 23:1-3, 6-9, Lev. 19:15-18).*
  - *Cities of refuge were established for protection of the accused where the "congregation" tried the accused (Num. 35:9-15, 22-28, Deut. 19:1-14).*

- *In ancient Israel, judges aided militia leaders and led militias to accomplish civil justice on the Canaanites, protect the people, and rescue the captive (i.e. the Book of Judges).*

➤ **Who was to be king over Israel (1 Samuel 8:7)?**

- *Yet, God knew that they would request a king, so God gave instructions regarding a king (Deut. 17:14-20).*
- **Who demanded a king (1 Sam. 8:4-10, 19-22)?**
- *Who united Israel under King David (2 Sam. 3:17-21, 2 Sam. 5:3)?*
- *Who joined with Absalom against David (2 Sam. 17:4)?*
- *Whose counsel did Rehoboam reject (1 Kings 12:6-8, 13)?*
- *The people could veto the king's judgment (1 Sam. 14:44-45).*

➤ **From study the civil government of the Law of Moses, what is the best kind of government? Should there be a balance of power?**

- **How does the Church's government resemble this government?**
- *Congregations act like Israel's tribes today.*
- *Elders shepherd, lead, manage, and protect (Acts 11:30, 20:28-32, 1 Cor. 6:2-5, 1 Tim. 3:1, Heb. 13:7, 17, 1 Pet. 5:1-3).*

❖ **How Should We Elect Statesmen?**

➤ **Does God give us the right to vote?**

- *Statesmen can be elected without voting by nominating qualified individuals and removing the nomination upon an offence confirmed by 2 or 3 witnesses.*

➤ **Can someone choose not to vote (choose, elect, select)?**

- *Could we choose to allow a corrupt government to die by its own corruption while along the way much evil will be done?*
- *Or should we encourage the government to bring about social and civil justice and protect the innocent to live in peace?*

## Government Issues

### ❖ **Is there wisdom in the Law of Moses in government?**

- Should our civil government follow the governing wisdom of the Law of Moses and morality of Jesus Christ?
- Should Christian dispute, divide, and disfellowship over government policies that are matters of inference (reasoning, rationale, opinion) (Romans 14:1, *dialogismos*, cf. 1 Cor. 3:20, Phil. 2:14)?

### ❖ **How Should a Nation Go to War (Deut. 20:11-15, 16-18, cf. Rom. 13:1-7, 1 Pet. 2:13-17)?** Remember that foreigners are to receive the same standard of judgment.

- What should be the reasons for a nation to go to war?
- How was the government to treat their opposition?
- How did they encourage military innovation and support their militias?

### ❖ **Was there freedom of religion under the Law of Moses?**

- What about under the Law of Christ? Should people have the freedom of conscience religion, and free-will faith (Rom. 14:22, 1 Cor. 5:12, 1 Tim. 2:1-4)?
  - *Yet, should people be expected others to believe in God (Rom. 1:20)?*
  - *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by **their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" (D of I).*
- Is there still a standard of law that can be applied to government (Rom. 2:14-15)?
  - *What is the most basic moral law (Rom. 13:9)?*

### ❖ **What should the government protect (Exo. 20:17, 22:1-15, Lev. 19:16-18, Deut. 19:14)?**

- Should the government punish evil actions (1 Pet. 2:13-14)?

### ❖ **What rights did the Law of Moses give (Ex. 20:12-17)?**

- Should we stand against all forms of murder like abortion (Ex. 21:22-25, Psa. 139:13-14, Prov. 6:16-17, Luke 1:36-41)?

- ❖ **Were “slaves”, indentured servants, allowed** (Lev. 25:39-40, Deut. 23:15-16, 24:7)?
  - Could people be enslaved (**1 Tim. 1:10, Ex. 21:16, Deut. 24:7**)?
    - *Were foreigners to be enslaved (Lev. 24:40)?*
  - How did someone become an indentured servant (Ex. 22:2-3, Lev. 25:39-40, Matt. 18:21-35)?
    - *Did selling oneself to another make one a slave or property (Lev. 24:39)?*
  - Must servants, “slaves”, be returned to their managers, “masters” (**Deut. 23:15-16**)?
  - Did bondservants have rights (**Ex. 20:10, 21:20, 26-27**, Lev. 19:20, Deut. 16:9-17)?
  - How long was one indentured (Lev. 25:10, 47-55, Ex. 21:2, Deut. 15:12-18)?
    - *How were they treated when released (Deut. 15:12-18)?*
  - Under Moses’ law, there was little need for state prisons.
- ❖ **What was Israel’s government told to do for the poor?**
  - Were the poor ever charged interest (**Ex. 22:25-27**, Lev. 25:35-38, Deut. 23:19-20)?
    - *What about giving material pledges (Deut. 24:10-13)?*
  - When were the poor to be paid for their labor (**Lev. 19:13, Deut. 24:14-15**)?
  - Was there a welfare system (**Lev. 19:9-10, Deut. 24:19-21**, cf. Deut. 23:24-25)?
    - *Who provided for the poor? What if this didn’t happen ()?*
  - What was done about the debt of the poor (Lev. 25:8-17, 23-24, Deut. 15:1-6)?
    - *Who was responsible for the poor (Deut. 15:7-11)?*
    - *What about the poor in the New Testament (1 Tim. 5:4, 8, 16)?*
  - Who made sure that the wealthy kept these laws (Deut. 24:17)?
  - **If the poor had to go to the fields for food, where would they most likely seek work? Where would they live? What trade would they learn? What would they desire to invest in? What interest would they pay? How would this change cities?**
  - What is the number one cause of poverty especially among children (Ex. 22:16-17, Deut. 22)? What are Christians to do (Matt. 5:42, 25:33-36, Luke 14:12-14)?

- ❖ **What was done about protecting and encouraging marriage (Ex. 20:14, 17; Lev. 18; 19:29; 20; Deut. 22:5, 22:13-30, Deut. 24:5)?**
- ❖ **How was Israel told to treat immigrants and travelers (Ex. 22:21, Lev. 19:33-34, 25:35)?**
  - Should the laws be different for immigrants and Israelites (Lev. 24:22)?
  - Should the courts be partial toward the natural born than the foreigner (Deut. 10:17-19)?
  - What was done about the Midianites who oppressed (Judg. 6)?
- ❖ **Should anyone be exposed to lewdness or any sexuality against their will?**
  - Should being exposed to lewdness be considered sexual abuse?
    - *Should pornography and other forms of lewdness be considered prostitution selling sex and be illegal (Deut. 22, 1 Cor. 6:16-18, Gal. 5:19-21)?*
    - *Is pornography and the like really prostitution and should be illegal?*
  - **Should adultery be illegal and punishable by law?**
  - **How can refraining from lewdness be respected by society and prevented by government?**
    - *The government limits sex crimes to anything without consent.*
  - **How would the first Christians have dealt with being exposed to such evil?**
- ❖ **Whose responsibility and right is it to educate children (Eph. 6:4, Gal. 4:2, Heb. 12:5-11, 1 Tim. 5:14, 2 Tim. 1:5)?**
  - *How should the government support education?*
  - Should the government or anyone else educate our children about religion, sex, anti-Christian opinions, and Darwinism?
  - Should schools allow people of similar beliefs to pray and worship together?
  - Therefore, we must obey God rather than men (Acts 4:19, 5:29).

❖ **Should government or people regulate trade?**

➤ **In the Law of Moses, regulation was by the people testifying to judges about those who break the law.**

▪ *This requires punishments for perjury, false witnessing, to be equal to the punishments of the accusations, and witnesses are liable for not coming forward.*

▪ *Also, fair weights and measurements were set to that of the tabernacle and priests, and all people were commanded to use fair weights (Lev. 19:35-36, Deut. 25:13-16).*

➤ **What harm can come from unregulated commerce?**

▪ *Unregulated capitalism allows for large businesses to collectively set prices, which can act as monopolies, along with many other abuses.*

➤ **What harm can come from bureaucrats regulating commerce?**

▪ **Socialism** *places unelected government officials in control of production and commerce (i.e. USDA, HUD, DOT, HHS, DOC, DOL, DOE, & ED).*

❖ **Should Christians be concerned about the environment?**

➤ Should Christians be good stewards of our land and resources (i.e. "environment")?

▪ *Does not being an environmentalist imply that you want to poison rivers?*

▪ *Do you have to believe in global warming to manage our resources?*

➤ Should animals be respected and not mistreated (**Prov. 12:10**, Exo. 23:19, 34:26, Deut. 25:4, Matt. 10:29)?

▪ *Should people be consider equal to animals (Gen. 1:26-27, Matt. 10:31, Luke 12:6-7)?*

❖ **Should we put our hope in government or in God?**

➤ *Is the greatest nation the Church or a nation of this world (Isa. 2:4)?*