

**EBC – Adult Bible Study**  
**“Spirit Empowered, Godly Living in an Ungodly World”**  
**2019-2020**

**Living with the “Secular” and the “Sacred” together – Government’s purpose and responsibility.**

**IV. Where Do We Get Our Understanding of Government contrasted with the people?**

**Last meetings End: Note: From the Declaration of Independence:** 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. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,

A. Some Historical background

1. Democracy has existed since 500 BC

2. Most common form of government before the 1800s was the Monarchy

- a. What God said about the Human King that would take His place - 1Sa 8:11-18  
And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. "He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. "He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. "And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. "He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. "And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. "He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. "And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."
- b. A Doctrine developed in the 1500s called “The **divine right of kings.**” It was a political and religious doctrine. It meant that a monarch was given the **right** to rule by God alone. His authority could not be questioned because he ruled in God's name.
- c. Before the above came to be, Kings were successful depending on strength
- i. Many had threats to their throne by other family members looking to overthrow them
- ii. Many, not all, were strengthened by the Barons with whom they had agreements

- d. King John, reigned from 1199-1216, was at war with France
  - i. Had no charter (agreement) with the Barons
  - ii. Promised made by the Archbishop of Canterbury that they would have rights if they would keep faith and peace with the King
  - iii. After losing at Normandy in 1204, the English had to pay for the war themselves; Where does the King get money to make war?
  - iv. Royal demands for scutage (money paid in lieu of military service) became more frequent.
  - v. The King and Church were at odds over the change of the Archbishop of Canterbury
  - vi. The English Church was left defenseless to the King's financial demands due to papal edict
  - vii. The King was excommunicated in 1209
  - viii. The new Archbishop of Canterbury actually stirred up some of the unrest between the Barons and the King
- e. King John signed and sealed the Articles of the Barons came to be known as Magna Carta on June 15. 1215
- f. The Pope annulled **Magna Carta** on 24 August 1215. ..., He was infuriated by the
  - i. arrogant behavior of the 25 barons, elected to enforce **Magna Carta** under its security clause
  - ii. continuing challenge to the authority of his local officials.

## B. The Magna Carta

1. The **Magna Carta** was a document signed by King John after negotiations with his barons and their French and Scots allies at Runnymede, Surrey, England in 1215. ... It is one of the most celebrated documents in the History of England. It is recognized as a cornerstone of the idea of the liberty of citizens.
  - a. **Magna Carta** established for the first time the **principle** that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law.
  - b. **Magna Carta** was written by a group of 13th-century barons to protect their rights and property against a tyrannical king.
  - c. Only three of the 63 clauses in the **Magna Carta** are **still** in law.
    - i. Clause 1: The liberties of the English Church. ... (1) First, that we have granted to God, and by this charter have confirmed for evermore, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired
    - ii. Clause 13: The privileges of the City of London. ...
    - iii. Clauses 39 & 40: The right to trial by jury.
      - “No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to

do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land.

- "To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice."

d. Some Principle are the basis for laws that exist today

- i. Clause **61** of **Magna Carta** makes it clear that if the People are wronged by the Crown and no remedy is forthcoming after all steps have been exhausted, that the People may take whatever action is necessary to obtain satisfaction without fear of reprisal. – first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence - **When, in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.**
- ii. But **Magna Carta's** legacy is reflected most clearly in the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the **Constitution** ratified by the states in 1791. In particular, amendments five through seven set ground rules for a speedy and fair jury trial, and the Eighth Amendment prohibits excessive bail and fines.
- iii. The major similarity between the two documents is that both of them **are** limits on the power of the government. A secondary similarity is that they **are** both written contracts of sorts that spell out what governments **can** and cannot **do**.
- iv. Congress wrote: "No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the **land**." Following adoption of the United States Constitution, Congress re-adopted the Northwest Ordinance in 1789. – see B.c.iii. above

Since God is Sovereign, and He appoints authorities and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries, might we understand that, in His providence, understandings of relationships between people also have their adjustment under His supervision as well as the breaking of relationships due to hardness of heart.

Was God in control of who was King in 1199-1215? Yes – Ro 13:1; Acts 17:26

Was God in control of the circumstances of the times? Yes

- Esther 1-4 - Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

- Esther 6 - Mordecai rewarded by the King for something that happened in chapter 2

Did relationships between King and people change due to these circumstances? Yes

- Esther 9-10

Ro 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Ac 17:26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,