

“Can Man Govern Himself?”

Genesis 9:1-7,20-23; Romans 13:1-7

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Concern for the survival of our nation
- Man certainly has tried to govern himself.
- Man fails to follow the dictates of his conscience

“Can Man Govern Himself?” – The Dispensation of HUMAN GOVERNMENT

A. God establishes Human Government

1. Historically in the NOAHIC COVENANT

- Genesis 9:1-7-- *“So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it.”*
 - a. Repopulation of the Earth-- v. 1 and 7
 - b. Rule over the Animal World-- v. 2
 - c. Change in diet-- v. 3
 - d. PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIFE-
 - Genesis 9:5-6-- *“Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beat I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”*

2. Theologically as revealed in Paul’s Writings

- Romans 13:1-5-- *“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. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do what is good and you will have the praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’s sake.”*
 - a. God is the **SOURCE of ALL POLITICAL POWER**
 - 1) God is absolutely sovereign over man.
 - Jeremiah 27:5--*“I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.”*
 - John 19:10--*“Do you not know that I have the power to crucify You, and the power to release You?”*
 - John 19:11--*“You could have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above.”*
 - 2) Nietzsche’s warning regarding the “will to power”
 - 3) Lord Acton’s famous adage: *“Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely”*
 - b. God establishes the various **HUMAN GOVERNMENTS**

- Daniel 2:20-21-- *"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."*
 - Daniel 5:21 -- *"the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses."*
- c. God ordains the **FUNCTIONS of GOVERNMENT**
- Romans 13:3-4-- *"For rulers are not terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good and you will have the praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, and avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."*
- 1) God ordains the **FUNCTIONS**, not the **FORM** of Government.
 - 2) God ordains **TWO FUNCTIONS** of Government
 - a) Promotion of what is **MORALLY GOOD**
 - b) **PROTECTION** from **EVIL** and **PUNISHMENT** of Evildoers.

B. Man fails to Govern Himself Effectively

1. Case of Noah-

- Genesis 9:20-23-- *"And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine, and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness."*
- a. Noah failed to rule his own household well. The family unit forms the foundation for a strong nation.
 - b. Sons of Noah were fruitful and filled the earth
 - Genesis 10:32-- *"These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood."*

2. Case of the Nations (Tower of Babel)-- Genesis 11

- a. Instead of spreading out and filling the earth, they came together to build a large city in defiance of God's command.
 - Genesis 11:1-6-- *"Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They had bricks for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.' But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, 'Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing they propose to do will be withheld from them.'"*
- b. God's judgment makes it harder to achieve a one-world government.
 - Genesis 11:7 -- *"Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."*
- c. God graciously confounds their language and scatters them around the world.
 - Genesis 11:8-9-- *"So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore, its name is called 'Babel' because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth."*

C. Our Responsibilities to Government.

1. Submit to their authority.

- Romans 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."*

- 1 Peter 2:13-16 -- *"Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."*
- Romans 13:5-- *"Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake."*

2. Serve as a way of serving God

3. Support by...

a. PAYING

- Romans 13:6-7 -- *"For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due; taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."*

b. PRAYING

- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 -- *"Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

c. SAYING