

# GOVERNMENT: ORDAINED OF GOD

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Before time began, we know God had a plan in mind which would save mankind from their sins in Christ (*Ephesians 3:10-11*). When Jesus laid the foundation of salvation through His death and resurrection, He built His church, the spiritual body of Christ (*Ephesians 1:22-23, Matthew 16:18*). In about A.D. 33, the saved began to be added to the church of Christ (*Acts 2:47 -KJV*).
2. From the beginning of man, we know “marriage” was instituted by God (*Genesis 2:18-25*). The “institution” of the family therefore followed (*Genesis 4:1*).
3. In this lesson we examine a third institution effecting man’s relationship with man: government. In this lesson we examine what the Bible reveals regarding civil government.
4. “Civil government is *“the practical implementation of a state on behalf of its citizens, other than through military units (martial law), that enforces law and order and is used to distinguish between religious authority (for example, canon law) and secular authority.*

## I. The Kingdom of Babel (Genesis 10:10)

- A. Nimrod’s kingdom – the rule of the “mighty hunter before Jehovah.” (*Genesis 10:9*)
- B. “Babel” the beginning of “Babylon” – Man exalting self – not God’s will (*Genesis 11:4*).

## II. God Rules in the “Kingdom of man” – God controls their destiny in time (Daniel 4:17, 5:28-33).

- A. Kingdom of Assyria – rod of God’s anger against Israel (*Isa. 10:5-12*)
- B. Kingdom of Babylon – Used Babylon to punish Jerusalem (*Habakkuk 1:5-11, 2:4-8*)

## III. God established His spiritual kingdom before His enemies (Psalm 110:1-2, Psalm 2:1-7, Daniel 2: 36-45, Revelation 20:7-10).

- A. The Lord will sit on God’s right hand till he makes enemies the Lord’s footstool – last enemy will be death ( *Psalm 110:1, I Corinthians 15:25-27*).
- B. All rule, authority and power will have been abolished ( *I Corinthians 15:24, Psalm. 2:6-9, Rev. 2:26-27*).
- C. Spiritual kingdom established in the days of the Roman Empire – will never be shaken (*Heb.12:27-28*).

## IV. God has arranged the use of civil government to serve good among mankind (Romans 13:1-7)

- A. Instituted by God – Christians in subjection to these higher powers (v.1)
- B. To withstand these powers will receive to themselves condemning judgment (v.2)

- C. Rule for good (praised)- terror to evil (v.3)
- D. Minister of God -avenger for God's wrath on evil- wields sword (v. 4, cf. Gen. 9:6)
- E. Christian submits for conscience's sake (v. 5)
- F. Christian pays taxes to support government (v.6-7)

**V. The Christian is subject to and must honor civil government for the Lord's sake (I Peter 2:13-17).**

- A. Government serves avenging evil and praising them who do well.
- B. Bondservants of God do well in submitting to government officials – puts to silence the ignorance of evil men.
- C. Peter offers us an example of when one must resist the demands of civil government: when its demands contradict God's (*Acts 5:29*).
- D. Paul appeals to civil government for protection of life and physical harm (*Acts 25:10-12, Acts 22:25-29*).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Has God's "arrangement" of governing His people changed from the time of Moses?
2. What is the "nature" of the first kingdom recorded in the Bible?
3. How is God "connected" with kingdoms of this world ?
4. How do we know that God's kingdom, promised in the Old Testament, would come into being while kingdoms of the world still existed ?
5. God has "instituted" civil government. (True) (False)  
Explain your answer from Scripture:
6. May a Christian participate in civil government?
7. How should Christians react personally when a civil government's demands contradict God's expressed will.