

## **“What the Bible Says About Government”**

### **Selected Scriptures**

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#### **1. God ordained human government (1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-5)**

- A. God determines who our political leaders are  
*“It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings” (Daniel 2:21)*
- B. God uses all political leaders for His purposes  
(Romans 9:17)
- C. God created government to maintain order  
*“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God (Romans 13:1)*
- D. God created government to punish sinners and restrain evil [no more laws in heaven—where there is love and maturity, there is no need for law]  
*“For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil...a minister of God...an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil” (Romans 13:3-4)*

*“governors [are to] punish those who do evil”  
(1 Peter 2:14)*

*“the Law is good...the Law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine” (1 Timothy 1:8-10)*

#### **2. Christians have dual citizenship**

- A. Our temporal and secondary citizenship is here  
(Galatians 1:2; Acts 16:37)
- B. Our eternal and primary citizenship in heaven  
*“our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20)*

#### **3. Jesus’ current kingdom is not of this world**

- A. His mission was spiritual and not political  
(2 Corinthians 10:3-4)  
*“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm” (John 18:36)*
- B. He was hated and rejected by the world (John 7:7; Acts 4:27)

#### **4. The church is a spiritual theocracy**

- A. Israel was a legitimate earthly theocracy (Gen. 12)
- B. America is not a theocracy.
- C. Today the Church is the only Christian nation  
(1 Peter 2:9)
- D. The next earthly theocracy will be during Tribulation and Millennium  
*“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth”  
(Matthew 6:10)*

*“144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel”  
(Revelation 7:4)*

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them...and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4)*

## 5. We are living in the “times of the Gentiles”

- A. Earthly governments will always be hostile toward the Church and believers  
*“Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”  
(Luke 21:24)*

*“I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves...they will deliver you to the courts...and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles” (Matthew 10:16-18)*

*“a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (Romans 11:25)*

- B. Jesus and Paul lived under corrupt, pagan political leaders  
*“The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them” (Matthew 20:25)*

- C. The progress of history is toward rebellion  
*“the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith” (1 Timothy 4:1)*

*“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come...” (2 Timothy 3:1)*

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:3)*

*“authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence...” (Revelation 6:8)*

- D. True change happens on an individual basis, not a corporate or institutional one.  
*“as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12)*

## 6. We must maintain biblical attitudes and actions toward government:

- A. Submit (1 Peter 2:13)
- B. Be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14; Philippians 2:15)
- C. Pay your taxes (Matthew 22:21)
- D. Do not revile but respect (Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:17)
- E. Pray for peace and freedom (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- F. Pray for salvation (1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 10:1)
- G. Pray for God’s righteousness (Matthew 6:10)
- H. Preach the gospel (Matthew 28; Mark 16)
- I. Call sinners to repentance (Acts 17:30; 20:21; Luke 24:47)
- J. Live godly (quietly and peacefully) (1 Peter 2:15)
- K. Expect persecution and suffering (John 17:14)
- L. We are to be responsible stewards with our rights and liberties, even in politics (Matthew 22:21; Acts 25:11)