

GOD AND GOVERNMENT

Romans 13:1-7

Introduction:

- 1. International tensions are very great at present.**
 - a. Our nation has been threatened with a nuclear attack.**
 - b. The world is still experiencing severe economic problems.**
 - c. Many blame the government for all their problems.**
- 2. We have just come through a national election.**
 - a. Some views elections as a “bother.”**
 - b. Many don’t vote, but nearly everyone complains.**
- 3. What should be our attitude as Christians toward government?**
 - a. Is it wrong for us to take an interest?**
 - b. Is it wrong if we do not take an interest?**
 - c. What does the Bible have to say on the matter?**
- 4. We are Christians in every aspect of our lives including our relationship with our government.**

Discussion:

- I. GOVERNMENTS ARE ORDAINED OF GOD.**
 - A. Government is first mentioned with Nimrod, founder of Babylon (Gen. 10:8-10).**
 - B. God ordained a government for Israel.**
 - 1. He intended it to be a theocracy (God rules).**
 - 2. He gave them a king because they demanded it (1 Sam. 8).**
 - 3. It was not His original intention for them to have a king.**

“I gave you a king in My anger and took him away in My wrath” (Hosea 13:11).
 - C. God approves of the institution of government (Rom. 13:1-7).**
 - 1. He does not put His stamp of approval upon any particular form of government.**
 - 2. Both Joseph and Daniel served in high positions in government by the providence of God.**
- II. GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN.**
 - A. Satan claims the kingdoms of the world (Matt. 4:8, 9).**
 - 1. They often serve him and his purposes.**
 - 2. They are not Satan’s by inherent right.**

B. God taught Nebuchadnezzar that He is in control of the nations.

“This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (Daniel 4:17).

C. God can raise up rulers and nations to carry out His will.

- 1. He used Babylon (Chaldea) to punish the Jews (Hab. 1).**
- 2. He raised up Cyrus of Persia to release Judah from captivity.**

“Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure,’ saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built.’ And to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’” (Isa. 44:28; cf. also Ezra 1:1-4).

III. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN’S RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT?

A. We must obey the laws of the land.

“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 (Rom. 13:1, 2).

B. We must pay taxes.

“Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake. 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” (Rom. 13:5-7).

C. We must pray for our leaders.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and 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 Saviour” (1 Tim. 2:1-3).

D. We are citizens of two kingdoms with responsibilities to each.

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21).

E. We are stewards who must give an account.

“It is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

- F. We must be “salt and light” both to society and to government (Matt. 5:s13-16).**

Conclusion:

- 1. God ordained government to serve a necessary function.**
 - a. If all were Christians and conducted themselves accordingly, government would not be needed.**
 - b. Until that time comes, we must have government to protect us from evildoers and provide needs that we cannot provide alone.**
- 2. Christians must be good, God-fearing citizens.**
- 3. We will give an account to God for all the privileges He has given us.**
- 4. Are you a Christian?**