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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**John 18:36**  
**Lesson #48**  
*The Bible on Human Government*  
**10/23/2016**

**"It's not just whether you win or lose  
but where you place the blame."**







And, you are  
crazy!

You are  
crooked!

**We need civil servants who  
are both civil and servants.**

1

2016 AD

**Who do we vote for against?**  
**We feel anxious & hopeless.**

2

**What do these texts share in common?**

*Psalm 56:3*  
Philippians 4:6-7  
**John 14:27**  
2 Timothy 1:7  
1 John 4:18  
*PSALM 94:19*  
Isaiah 43:1  
Proverbs 12:25  
*Psalm 23:4*  
**Joshua 1:9**  
*Matthew 6:34*  
**1 PETER 5:6-7**  
*Isaiah 35:1*  
Luke 12:22-26  
*Psalm 27:1*


*Mark 6:50*  
Deuteronomy 31:6  
*ISAIAH 41:13-14*  
**PSALM 46:1**  
*Psalm 118:6-7*  
Proverbs 29:25  
*Mark 4:39-40*  
*Psalm 34:7*  
**1 Peter 3:14**  
*Psalm 34:4*  
**DEUTERONOMY 3:22**  
Revelation 1:17  
**Mark 5:36**  
*Romans 8:38-39*  
Zephaniah 3:17  
*Psalm 91:1-16*



3

30 AD

- ✓ The disciples were about to have their **expectations** crushed by the Roman gov.
- ✓ All but one of the disciples would die as **martyrs** in the hands of that government.
- ✓ After Pentecost, the Apostles would **remind** the church of the words of Jesus.



**John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**”

4


**Do not place your hope and faith in**

Human government • American uniqueness • Political power

**Does the Bible prescribe any one FORM of human government?**

**Does AMERICA occupy a special place in God's kingdom?**

**Is Kingdom POWER political?**



5



**To avoid fear - first:  
Don't place your hope and  
faith in any one form of**



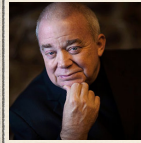
**human government.**

6

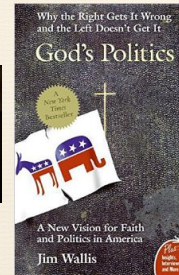
“Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

Winston Churchill

**Defending the  
political left**

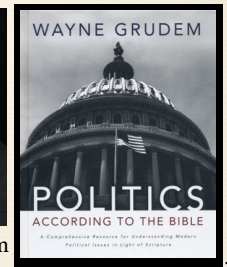


Jim Wallis



Wayne Grudem

**Defending the  
political right**



7

**The Bible has a lot to say about  
human government,  
but it may not be what we  
expect or want to hear.**

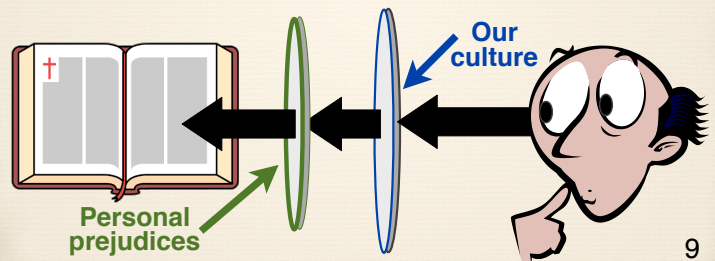
1. The Old Testament Theocracy.  
(Israel is not a template for human government.)
2. The N.T. Separation of church & state.  
(The N.T. is not about reforming the state.)
3. Human government is God's visual aid.  
(We are incapable of bringing in the kingdom.)

8

**A summary of Biblical teaching on  
Christianity & Human government.**

1. The O.T. model is “Theocracy” - church and state are intertwined.

- We tend to look at the Bible through the lenses of our culture and prejudices.

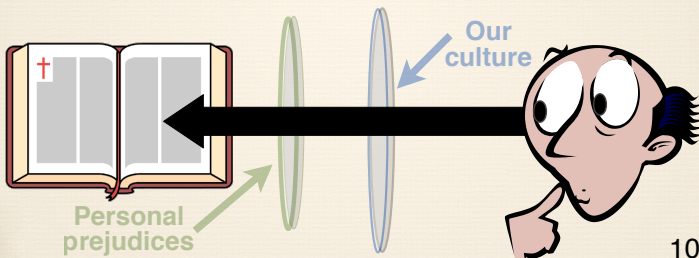


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**A summary of Biblical teaching on  
Christianity & Human government.**

1. The O.T. model is “Theocracy” - church and state are intertwined.

- We tend to be **blinded** by and to our culture and personal prejudices.



10

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

“ . . . (If) My people who are called by My name, who build a temple to My name, and say, ‘We will not see the king, nor will we see the king,’ then I will uproot you from My land (Palestine) and I will scatter you among the nations. Then I will bring you back from there, and I will gather you from all the nations to which I have given you.”

7:20

The Puritans applied this to America believing that America had a covenant relationship with God as the New Israel?

11



**A summary of Biblical teaching on Christianity & Human government.**

**1. The O.T. model is "Theocracy" - church and state are intertwined.**

- All Scripture is written **FOR** us but not necessarily **TO** us or **ABOUT** us.
- Biblical Israel was **not a democracy**. When Israel demanded to choose its own kings it was seen as rebellious. (1 Sam.8:1-22; 12:17)
- Every seventh year the land was to be **left for the poor by law**. (Ex.23:10-11; Deut.15:1-12)
- Gleaning rights were **required by Law**. (Lev.19:9-10)

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- Tithes were **required by Law**.

**10% management (Levites)**

(Num.18:21,24)

**10% charity (the poor)**

every 3rd year

(Deut.14:28,29)

**10% temple (sacrifices)**

(Deut.14:22-27)

**25-30%**

**The Old Covenant tithe system was comparable to a flat tax.**

13



**Flavius Josephus**

"In addition to the two tithes which I have already directed you to pay each year, the one for the Levites and the other for the banquets, ye should devote a third every third year to the distribution of such things as are lacking to widowed women and orphan children."—

*Antiquities iv. 240; Loeb ed.*

14

- The Year of Jubilee **returned land to its original owner** (manager) after 50 years. (Lev.25:8-13)
- Israelites were stewards in a "**feudal system**" where God was the land owner.

*Leviticus 25:23*

"The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for **the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.**"

*Exodus 20:16*

"Thou shalt not **steal**."

**This commandment does not speak of "ownership".**

**The people were to respect the property under the stewardship of others - "Thou shalt not steal."**

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**A summary of Biblical teaching on Christianity & Human government.**

**2. The N.T. model is a separation of church and state.**

- The N.T. does not perpetuate the Old Covenant with Israel.

16

**Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring more revelation and understanding.**

*John 16:13*

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come."



Old Testament - Gospels

**Paul's Gospel**

Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

17



## Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.**

*Ephesians 3:3-5*

“that by revelation there was **made known to me** the mystery, . . . which **in other generations was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”



Old Testament - Gospels

**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

18

## The Apostles saw Pentecost as **the beginning of the Gospel community (the Body of Christ - the church).**

*Acts 11:15*

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**”



Old Testament - Gospels

**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

19

## The dwelling place of God among men.



Old Testament - Gospels



**Body of Christ**

Acts - Epistles

Land / Temple

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## A summary of Biblical teaching on Christianity & Human government.

### 2. The N.T. model is a separation of church and state.

- The N.T. does not perpetuate the Old Covenant with Israel.
- “My kingdom is **not** of this world”. *Jn.18:36*
- “**Render to Caesar** the things that are Caesars and to God the things that are Gods”. *Matt.22:21*
- “**Submit** yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution,” *1 Pet.2:13*
- “To those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen.**” *1 Pet.1:1*

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## Some general observations on the N.T. teaching on human government.

- It does not specify any one **form** of human government as ordained of God.
- It leaves the impression that Christians can **thrive** in many forms of government.
- It views government primarily as an **order and peacekeeping** system.
- It calls Christians to submit to it, support it, and pray for it but not place their **hope or faith** in it or expect to **reform and control** it.

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*The Bible has a lot to say about human government, but it may not be what we expect or want to hear.*

1. The Old Testament Theocracy.  
(Israel is not a templet for human government.)
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(We are incapable of bringing in the kingdom.)

23



## God's visual aids:

### Mortality

(Why do we die?)

### Meaning

(Why do we not kill ourselves?)

### Morality

(Why do we not kill each other?)

### Management

(Why does government fail us?)

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## Jesus knew that his kingdom might be misunderstood and abused.

*John 18:36*

**"My kingdom is not of this world.** If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **my kingdom is not of this realm.**"

*Matthew 11:12*

"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men **take it by force.**" 25

*2 Timothy 3*

"<sup>1</sup> But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup> **holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power;** and avoid such men as these."

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## "Sometimes we embrace a Biblical fantasy to justify our prejudices."

*Ecclesiastes 10:2*

"A wise man's heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him toward the left."

**"We tend to want to experience all the kingdom promises HERE, NOW, AND WITHOUT SACRIFICE."**

27



Richard John Newhouse

"Idolatry is trying to bring in God's Kingdom before its time and without its King."



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## Lessons

- *The Scripture does not outline any one form of human government for the church age.*
- *Human government cannot but disappoint us and should never be the source of our hope or object of our faith.*
- *Be especially careful in linking ancient Israel to America.*
- *God anoints his people not their environment or circumstances.*

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