



“Donkeys, Elephants, and Jesus!”  
How God Relates To Government And Nations

Before we can understand how God relates to government and nations, we must first understand...

**What is the purpose of government?**

The first mention of government in the bible is before the fall of man. God instituted the government and Adam and Eve were the first governors.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

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The next mention of government is after the fall.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;  
In pain you shall bring forth children;  
Your desire shall be for your husband,  
And he shall rule over you."

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After the fall of man government was provided by men who were the heads of families, clans, and tribes. Every man did what was right in his own eyes and every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. There was no rule of law. As a result, there was no justice on the earth. The shedding of innocent blood was an accepted practice. Women were objectified by men and men used their superior strength to do whatever they desired to do with any woman they desired to do it with. The earth was filled with violent murder and sexual immorality.

God saw the wickedness of mankind and decided to destroy the world's population with a great storm that would flood the earth.

Genesis 6:5-7

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

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The only exception was a man named Noah and his family.

Genesis 6:8

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

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Genesis 6:9-10

9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

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God instructed Noah to build a boat that would enable him and his family to survive the storm that would flood the earth. After the flood, God made Noah and his sons the first governors of the earth and He gave Noah and his sons the very first rule of law to govern others and preserve justice on the earth.

Genesis 9:1-6

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 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. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 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.

6 "Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed;

For in the image of God  
He made man.  
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The descendants of Noah and his sons became the leaders of nations.

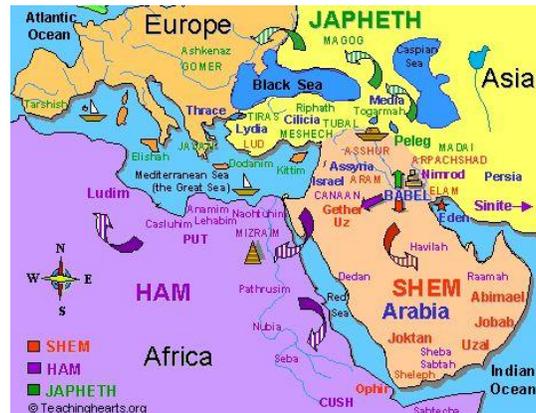
Genesis 10:1-5

1 Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. 3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. 4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. 5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

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Here is a map that shows the development of the nations under Noah's sons and their descendants.



As the various nations developed, there is no mention of any other code of law in the bible until the law of Moses. From archaeology finds in the middle east, we do know that there were other codes of laws such as the code of **Ur-ukagina**, the code of Ur-Nammu and the code of Hammurabi.

One law that is similar in all of these ancient codes of law is the first law that God gave to Noah.

Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed;  
For in the image of God  
He made man.

The application of this law was expanded by some nations to apply to other offenses such as robbery, adultery, and rape. This one law protected one's person and personal property.

One of the descendants of Noah's son Shem was Abraham. God specifically chose Abraham to be the first governor of the nation of Israel.

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the Lord had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you.  
2 I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.  
3 I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."  
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God specifically chose the land of Canaan to be the home of the nation of Israel.



Genesis 13:12-17

12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

14 And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are — northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

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God eventually raised up 12 tribes from the descendants of Abraham that became the nation of Israel. God then specifically chose Moses from the tribe of Levi to be the governor

and the first scribe for His code of law for the nation of Israel. The Law of God given to Moses is without question, the most thorough and most just code of law ever written for any nation.

God told the leaders of Israel if they would follow His law, they would be the most prosperous nation in the world.

Deut. 28:1-2

28 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

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He also told them that if they forsook His code of law that He would destroy them.

Deut. 28:15

15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

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As we examine the history of government and law in the bible, God's purpose for Government was to provide law and order on the earth, to protect each citizen's person and personal property.

When you look at what the quality of life was like for people on the earth before the flood and what the quality of life was like for people after the flood, you can see the incredible purpose that Government and law fulfill.

Based on this understanding, Paul said this to the church in Romans 13.

Romans 13:1-7

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. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 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. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

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How does God relate to government and nations?

Since God instituted government to preserve law and order in nations, He holds governments and governors personally accountable for their judicial decisions for a nation.

Here is what God says to nations.

Job is considered to be the oldest book of the bible.

Job 12:23-25

23 He makes nations great, and destroys them;

He enlarges nations, and guides them.

24 He takes away the understanding of the chiefs of the people of the earth,

And makes them wander in a pathless wilderness.

25 They grope in the dark without light,

And He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

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David, the second King of Israel said this about the nations and how God relates to government and nations.

Psalms 2:1-5

1 Why do the nations rage,

And the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces

And cast away Their cords from us."

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;

The Lord shall hold them in derision.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,

And distress them in His deep displeasure:

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Psalms 9:15-16

15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made;

In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.

16 The Lord is known by the judgment He executes;

The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.

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Psalms 9:17-18

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell,

And all the nations that forget God.

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten;

The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.

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Psalms 33:10-19

10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples

of no effect. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all

generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as

His own inheritance.

13 The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. 14 From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; 15 He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

16 No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.

18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, 19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

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Psalms 46:10

10 Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!

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Psalms 47:8

8 God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on His holy throne.

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The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah said this about how God relates to governments and nations.

Isaiah 60:12

12 For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish,  
And those nations shall be utterly ruined.

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Jeremiah 1:4-5

4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:  
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;  
Before you were born I sanctified you;  
I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

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Jeremiah 1:9-10

9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me:

"Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms,  
To root out and to pull down,  
To destroy and to throw down,  
To build and to plant."

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Jeremiah 6:18-19

18 Therefore hear, you nations,  
And know, O congregation, what is among them.  
19 Hear, O earth!  
Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people —  
The fruit of their thoughts,  
Because they have not heeded My words  
Nor My law, but rejected it.  
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How does God relate to Nations and their governments?  
God prospers those governments of nations that are just and He destroys those  
governments of nations that are not.

The founding fathers of our nations understood how God relates to nations and their new  
government. Because they had a great fear of God they determined that they would base  
our laws on His law.

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His  
will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.”  
– *George Washington*

True religion affords to government its surest support.  
– *George Washington*

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.  
– *George Washington*

God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have  
removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my  
country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.  
– Thomas Jefferson, Jefferson Memorial

History is replete with violent transitions in the government of nations. God’s Word says  
that God orchestrated those transitions based on how those nations were being governed.

**How does God relate to our nation and our government at this time?**

If you google what is the world’s oldest continuous government, you will find the United  
States is either at the top of the list or close to the top of the list. But it has been very costly.

From 1775-1783 our founding fathers fought the revolutionary war. Not every patriot’s  
motives were pure in the revolutionary war but it is clear from what our founding fathers  
wrote that war was essentially over God’s law as it applied to government and nations.

From 1861-1865 our nation had a civil war. The war was essentially over God's law as it applied to government and nations.

**Abraham Lincoln**

**"Near eighty years ago we began by declaring that all men are created equal; but now from that beginning we have run down to the other declaration, that for SOME men to enslave OTHERS is a "sacred right of self-government." These principles cannot stand together. They are as opposite as God and mammon; and whoever holds to the one, must despise the other. Speech at Peoria, Illinois, on October 16, 1854 (CWAL II: 275)**

About 500,000 people died.

Both of these wars were preceded by great spiritual awakenings. When God wants to raise up a people in a nation to stand against evil He sends a great spiritual awakening.

In the late 60's and early 70's our nation experienced another spiritual awakening that was called the Jesus movement. I would encourage you to watch the movie "Woodlawn" to understand what was happening all across our country.

In 1973, our federal government made a law that protected a woman's right to have an abortion in all 50 states. In so doing the government of our nation violated the very first rule of law that God gave to nations and their government's.

**Genesis 9:6**

**Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed;  
For in the image of God  
He made man.**

When our federal government made this decision for all 50 states, not one state succeeded; not one state stood up to the federal government and said, "We are not above God's law. We cannot stop someone from getting an abortion but we will not allow any medical practitioner or clinic in our state that will perform one!"

By 1973 the expansion of the federal government into the states, the secularization of America, and the moral decline was so progressed that not one state actively resisted in spite of the Jesus movement.

<http://www.numberofabortions.com>

Since 1973, there have been over 59 million reported abortions.

1973 was not the beginning of our governments moral decline. It was the continuation of government leaders that consider themselves to be above God's law.

Based on how God relates to nations and their governments, how is God relating to us at this time?

- We have experienced a great increase in our national debt.  
<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>
  - We have experienced the deaths of hundreds of thousands of soldiers in war.
  - We are experiencing unprecedented natural disasters.
  - We are experiencing unprecedented domestic problems.
1. Homicide and incarceration highest of any industrialized nation.  
Ten times that of Japan, Sweden, Ireland, and the Netherlands.
  2. Crime increased by 371% since 1960, with Juvenile Crime up 920% since 1985, the highest in the world.
  3. Divorce quadrupled in the last 30 years, making the U.S. the world leader.
  4. Teenage pregnancies also quadrupled in the last 30 years (more than a million a year) making the US the Western World leader.
  5. Illegal drug use leader of the world.
  6. Illiteracy world leader, with National Educational Standards among the lowest in the world.
  7. STD rates have reached a record high
  8. Teen suicides more than doubled in the last 30 years.

Our only hope to change the course our nation is repentance in our leaders. This would take such a great spiritual awakening that we would elect righteous people to rule over us.

What should I do while I am praying for this spiritual awakening?

- Put off my sins  
Do you consider yourself above God's law?
- Participate in discipleship  
I can only change the world one person at a time.
- Pray for my leaders
- Put my ultimate hope in the return of Jesus Christ.

There will be a generation of believers that will experience the return of Christ. His return will be preceded incredible events that will unite the nations against God.

The last mention of government in the bible is after Christ returns.  
[Rev 19:11-16](#)

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

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Will you join me?

Will you put off your sins?

Will you participate in discipleship?

Will you pray for our leaders?

Will you put your hope in the return of Jesus Christ?