

GOD AND GOVERNMENT

A Biblical, Historical,
and Constitutional Perspective

STUDENT WORKBOOK

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and Daniel Noor*



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PASSING ON THE FAITH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Course Introduction.....	4
Daily Lesson Schedule.....	6
Worksheets for <i>God and Government</i>	17
Glossary	137
Worksheet Answer Keys	145

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WORKSHEETS FOR USE WITH

GOD

AND

GOVERNMENT

VOCABULARY

1. Government	a. the principles and regulations established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision
2. State	b. the quality or state of being self-governing
3. Autonomy	c. the doctrine that humanity's obligations are concerned wholly with the welfare of the human race
4. Sovereignty	d. the organization, machinery, or agency through which a political unit exercises authority and performs functions and which is usually classified according to the distribution of power within it
5. Representation	e. a supreme power or authority with the status, dominion in a royal rank or position; royalty
6. Law	f. a threatened penalty for the violation of a law or statute
7. Sanctions	g. the power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes; jurisdiction; the right to control, command, or determine
8. Authority	h. action or speech on behalf of a person, group, business house, state, or the like by an agent or a deputy
9. Humanitarianism	i. a politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory especially: one that is sovereign

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Compare Noah Webster's definition of government in his original 1828 *American Dictionary of the English Language* with that of modern dictionaries and contemporary usage of the word government in the media (newspapers, magazines, and television). How are they the same? How do they differ?
2. What does the Bible have in mind when it describes God's government in the singular? (Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 2; Daniel 4:34-37; 1 Timothy 6:15-15; Revelation 19:6; Ephesians 5:22-34; Hebrews 12:1-13; Romans 13:4; cf.12:19)
3. What does the Bible mean by self-government or self-control, and what is the foundation of self-government? (Genesis 39:7-23; 41:38-49; 49:4, 23-24; Proverbs 13:24; 16:9; Galatians 5:16-26)
4. How does self-government differ from autonomous government, and in what ways is self-government often denied? (Judges 17:6; Genesis 3:1-14; James 1:13-18; 4:7)

5. What is the relationship between God's *singular* government and the *many* institutional governments like family, church, and civil government, and how does this principle of the "many" governments work itself out in family, church, and state? (Ephesians 6:1; Matthew 16:19; 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-8)

6. Using the definition of government found in the self-government and family government sections and the Appendix on "What is Government?" describe the biblical nature of family government, comparing it with the model government of the Triune God. (**Sovereignty:** Matthew 6:9; Acts 17:25; Matthew 7:9-11; Matthew 4:4; cf. Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:6-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Acts 17:29; John 8:31-47; Romans 7:15; Acts 16: 25-34; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 2 Timothy 3:15. **Representation:** 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 3:17; Mark 9:7; Luke 22:42; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:12-17. **Law:** Hebrews 3:6; Luke 22:42; Ephesians 6:1. **Jurisdiction:** Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15; Hebrews 12:5-6; see vv. 7-11. **Continuity:** Matthew 28:18; Psalm 2:8; Ephesians 6:1-3; 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-26; 4:11)

7. In what ways is the biblical worldview of the family being redesigned, and what will be the result? (1 Corinthians 11:1-15; Judges 4; Isaiah 3:12-26; 4:1)

8. How can the biblical family be used to restore the republic? (1 Timothy 5:8; Deuteronomy 21:17; Psalm 78:1-8; Proverbs 13:22; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Deuteronomy 1:13; cf. Exodus 18:17-26; 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-36; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Exodus 20:12; 1 Kings 21)

VOCABULARY

1. Centralism	a. a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority
2. Democracy	b. the political concept that the citizen should be totally subject to an absolute state authority
3. Monarchy	c. the act or practice of manufacturing a variety of products, investing in a variety of securities, selling a variety of merchandise, etc., so that a failure in or an economic slump affecting one of them will not be disastrous
4. Anarchy	d. arbitrary or unrestrained exercise of power; despotic abuse of authority
5. Tyranny	e. the concentration of power and control in the central authority of an organization (such as a political or educational system)
6. Monolithic	f. undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a single person
7. Totalitarianism	g. excessive devotion to and promotion of the interests of a particular locality; sectionalism
8. Diversification	h. government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system
9. Localism	i. consisting of one piece; solid or unbroken: characterized by massiveness, total uniformity, rigidity, invulnerability, etc.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who is qualified to govern the church? What are the qualifications for those who are to govern in the church? (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
2. From whom did the church receive its governing authority? What is the role of church government in settling disputes that arise among its members? (Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20)
3. What is the extent of the church's authority in the lives of its members? Why is the authority given? (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 13; Titus 1:10-16; 1 Timothy 1:18-20)
4. What other governing functions does the church perform with respect to disputes among members? How would this affect civil government? (1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

5. Does the church, through the leadership of the elders and deacons, perform a governing function for the economic welfare of its members? If so, what is the extent of the church's governing function in this area? (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:4; 8-10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

6. How does the church finance its governing responsibilities? Explain. (Matthew 22:21,1; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Proverbs 3:9-10; 19:17; 28:27; Malachi 3:10)

7. What purpose did the leaders of the nations have for building the Tower of Babel? What dangers were inherent in their purpose? (Genesis 10:31-11:4)

8. What was God's evaluation of this central governing plan? (Genesis 11:5-9)

9. What was God's purpose in scattering these people? (Genesis 11:8-9)

15. How does the New Testament summarize the concept of decentralization? (Romans 13:1, 3, 6-7)

16. In what ways do you see centralism espoused and localism denied in your own local, county, and state governments?