

KEVIN SWANSON

UNDER GOD

America's 250th—Commemorative Edition

**A BATTLE PLAN FOR REFORMING
CIVIL GOVERNMENT**



Generations
PASSING ON THE FAITH

Under God: A Battle Plan for Reforming Civil Government

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Contents

Chapter 1

Civil Government Under God 15

Chapter 2

Good Government Under God’s Law39

Chapter 3

The Proper Function of Civil Government Under God..... 81

Chapter 4

The Christian Under the State, Under God 121

Chapter 5

The Christian Influencer and State Leader Under God..... 165

Chapter 6

The American Paradigm213

Chapter 7

A Short History of World Governments Under God.....251

Chapter 8

Rights and Liberties Under God’s Laws289

Chapter 9

The Free Economy Under God.....315

Chapter 10

The Nations Under God’s Judgments 361

Chapter 11

Godly Leaders Under God405

Chapter 12

All Nations Under God..... 441

Appendix

The Morality Index—“The Evil Index”471

Notes 479

Index 497



All the nations and peoples of the earth are
under the sovereign rule and authority of God.

Civil Government Under God

There is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (Romans 13:1)

Whether or not the kings of the earth or anybody else will admit to it, all nations and all peoples are under God. He is the Creator, and His rule over the nations is absolute. Because He is the Sovereign over all things, He is the authoritative Legislator, Ruler, and Judge. Throughout all divine revelation, from Genesis to Revelation, God is referred to as *the Lord* or Master. He is Lord of the universe. He is in charge. He has the right to make laws and enforce them. This is what sets God apart from all the idols and false gods of the world. “Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (Ps. 115:3).

God must then be considered the source of all power and authority. Refusing to acknowledge God, the Creator and Sovereign, as the ultimate issuer of power, or to seek that power from other sources, is a demonic ploy. This is equivalent to witchcraft, for indeed, “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft” (1 Sam. 15:23). Fantasy authors who deny God as the source of power are promoting

witchcraft. Scientists and technologists who refuse to recognize God as the source of all natural power and knowledge concerning all things have reduced themselves to the primitive position of the witch doctor. Politicians who will not acknowledge that their power comes from God (vs. themselves, the people, the oligarchy, etc.) are involved in witchcraft. More often than not, the power they seek after will be divvied out to them by demons, who themselves are subject to the authority of God, though still in self-conscious rebellion against Him. Revolting against God's rule on the part of civil rulers is treason against the Most High. Their rule is temporary, and these insurgents will be brought down, either sooner or later.

The sovereign kings of the earth issue laws, and then they execute these laws by punishing lawbreakers. Likewise, God has issued His law by special revelation. The King of the universe will also punish lawbreakers who violate His law, including those civil rulers who rebel against it.

To whom then will you liken God?
 Or what likeness will you compare to Him? . . .
 He brings the princes to nothing;
 He makes the judges of the earth useless.
 Scarcely shall they be planted,
 Scarcely shall they be sown,
 Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth,
 When He will also blow on them,
 And they will wither,
 And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.
 (Isaiah 40:18, 23-24)

Jesus Christ Is King

Of the highest possible historical significance for us and for all peoples and places on the earth is this fact: God exalted Jesus Christ to the right hand of the Father around the year 30 AD. He is the King of kings. He is the “ruler over the kings of the earth” now, in the present tense (Rev. 1:5). He is “head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:22). He is positioned “far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:21). He is on the throne, and He reigns until His enemies are put under His footstool (1 Cor. 15:25-27; Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:34-35). The kings and the judges of the earth must bow to Him and kiss the Son, lest they perish in the way (Ps. 2:12). The matter is urgent, and more urgent today than it was 2,000 years ago.

God Is in Total Control

Unlike the lesser kings and rulers in the earth, God is the perfect Ruler over all things. Having been placed on the throne at the right hand of the Father, the Son of God is *the Sovereign* over all (Ps. 2; 22:28; 59:13; Prov. 21:1; Dan. 4:34-37; 5:21; Matt. 28:18; Acts 17:26; 1 Cor. 15:27-28; Heb. 2:8; Phil. 2:10). Nothing slips out from under His oversight and control. He is the perfect Judge of the earth—sometimes judging the nations and its inhabitants here and now, and sometimes holding off for the final assize at the end of time. God is absolutely *in control* of all persons and events going on in the world, at all times. “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Prov. 15:3). He controls the outcome of every roll of the dice, despite the probabilities of natural cause-

and-effect relationships (Prov. 16:33). Even “the king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD. Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes” (Prov. 21:1). He purposefully hardens Pharaoh’s heart (Ex. 4:21; 7:30), and the hearts of the Canaanites, “that they might come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them” (Josh. 11:20). He guides an arrow straight in between the joints of Ahab’s armor to make certain the king is killed in the battle, as He had predetermined it (1 Kin. 22:34). Nobody escapes His oversight, rule, and judgment.

Modern humanist governments seek to achieve omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence for themselves as if they would turn themselves into deity. The effect of these intentions is always tyranny. Communist China, for example, has installed 700 million video cameras (almost one per citizen)¹ so as to monitor “every move they make and every breath they take.” Phone apps pass along data to government agencies, tracking every transaction, listening in on communications, and monitoring movement. The Chinese citizen’s social score is adjusted by whether he or she is complying with the expectations of the state, as determined by the tracking data collected. Yet the state (and all men) will always fall far short of deity. They cannot govern the human heart. They cannot make the people “willing in the day of the tyrant’s power” (see Ps. 110:3). They cannot match God’s omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. For indeed, the state computers cannot see through to the heart of man, or properly judge motives, speech, and action. The attempt to replicate or replace God’s sovereign rule will always be futile, and produce a miserable tyranny to boot.

There is no authority above God. By definition, God is absolutely sovereign and free, only constrained by His own nature and will.

Indeed, “all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Dan. 4:35) Nothing can disappoint His intentions and rule, and “He does whatever He pleases” (Ps. 115:3).

Authority

All authority then flows from God, and any authority seized upon without the approval of God is illegitimate. Most human governments understand this. If a constitution stipulates only certain powers for the president of a country, it would be a violation of the higher law, if the leader would usurp more power than that which was allotted him. As far as the president exceeds his powers, his rule becomes illegitimate. For instance, the president of South Korea was charged with exceeding his authority when he called for martial law on December 3, 2024. He was subsequently removed from office and indicted on criminal charges. God is the higher authority and He has instituted a higher law, and He will hold civil authorities accountable if they assume authority not delegated to them. The right to rule is derived from God alone, and that authority allowed for the civil government is bounded by His law as laid out in the Scriptures. *There is no authority except from God.*

Romans 13 also describes all civil rulers as servants of God to administer His vengeance upon those who do evil. Previously, the apostle had already forbidden taking personal vengeance against offenders (Rom. 12:19-20). But now, the magistrate is required to take God’s vengeance upon those who do evil (Rom. 13:4-5).

To the extent that the leading figures of our nation refuse to acknowledge God, throw off His law, and rebel against His rule, they

give up their right to rule. They surrender the nation to instability and anarchy. They will often give over their countries to a series of revolutions, which subjects the people to unspeakable suffering, wars, and loss of life.

Moreover, to deny God's ultimate authority and to replace it with another authority is to violate the First Commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Ex. 20:3 KJV). The word "god" may be translated "authority" (Ps. 82:6-7; see also 1 Cor. 8:5). The Scriptures speak of lesser gods (authorities), but there is only one ultimate authority—usually prefaced with the definite article in the original Hebrew and Greek texts of Scripture: "the God" and "the Lord" (see Deut. 7:9; John 1:1).

Presidents Under God

Thankfully, some nations have acknowledged God and submitted to His rule, at least by some measure. The United States, for example, has been uniquely blessed with a Christian heritage and the peace, prosperity, and stability that come with it. The nation was protected from foreign invasions and somewhat exempted from the terrible revolutions that shook Russia and Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

In many cases, American leaders have self-consciously submitted themselves to God's ultimate authority. US presidents customarily place their hands on the Bible when taking the presidential oath, and most have acknowledged God in their inaugural addresses, as summarized below.

1. George Washington said, "It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe."

2. John Adams closed his inaugural address with these words: “And may that Being who is supreme over all, the Patron of Order, the Fountain of Justice, and the Protector in all ages of the world of virtuous liberty, continue His blessing upon this nation and its Government and give it all possible success and duration consistent with the ends of His providence.”
3. Thomas Jefferson invoked “that Infinite Power which rules the destinies of the universe.”
4. James Madison stated his reliance upon the “guidance of that Almighty Being.”
5. James Monroe, in his address, was certain that “we cannot fail, under the favor of a gracious Providence.”
6. John Quincy Adams quoted Psalm 127: “Except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain.”
7. Andrew Jackson referred to “the goodness of that Power whose providence mercifully protected our national infancy.”
8. Martin Van Buren looked to “the gracious protection of that Divine Being.”
9. William Henry Harrison committed to place “my chief confidence upon the aid of that Almighty Power which has hitherto protected me.”
10. John Tyler looked to “the protecting care of an ever watchful and overruling Providence.”
11. James K. Polk prayed, “I fervently invoke the aid of that Almighty Ruler of the universe.”
12. Zachary Taylor gave thanks for “the goodness of Divine Providence.”

13. Millard Fillmore made one reference to “Almighty God.”
14. Franklin Pierce acknowledged “the nation’s humble dependence upon God.”
15. James Buchanan personally testified that “I must humbly invoke the God of our fathers.”
16. Abraham Lincoln stated, “Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.”
17. Andrew Johnson testified to his reliance on God’s sovereign rule over all things: “Duties have been mine; consequences are God’s.”
18. Ulysses S. Grant confessed, “I ask the prayers of the nation to Almighty God.”
19. Rutherford B. Hayes sought “for the guidance of that Divine Hand.”
20. James Garfield acknowledged a fear of God: “I reverently invoke the support and blessings of Almighty God.”
21. Chester Arthur spoke of “relying for aid on Divine Guidance.”
22. Grover Cleveland exhorted all, “And let us not trust to human effort alone, but humbly acknowledge the power and goodness of Almighty God who presides over the destiny of nations.”
23. Benjamin Harrison said, “We may reverently invoke and confidently extend the favor and help of Almighty God.”
24. William McKinley declared, “Our faith teaches that there is no safer reliance than upon the God of our fathers.”



George Washington
(1732–1799)

25. Theodore Roosevelt thanked “the Giver of Good who has blessed us.”
26. William Howard Taft mentioned our need for “the aid of the Almighty God.”
27. Woodrow Wilson spoke of “God helping me.”
28. Warren G. Harding referred to “God’s intent in the making of this new-world Republic.”
29. Calvin Coolidge acknowledged Christ as Lord in his speeches, including this one: “America seeks no empires built on blood and force. . . The legions which she sends forth are armed, not with the sword, but with the Cross. The higher state to which she seeks the allegiance of all mankind is not of human, but of divine origin. She cherishes no purpose save to merit the favor of Almighty God.”
30. Herbert Hoover requested “the help of Almighty God.”
31. Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted the “blessing of God” and His guidance.
32. Harry S. Truman significantly noted “that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God.”
33. Dwight Eisenhower actually prayed in his address: “Almighty God, as we stand here at this moment. . .”
34. John F. Kennedy stated, “Here on earth, God’s work truly must be our own.”
35. Lyndon B. Johnson referred to “the oath I have taken before you and God.”
36. Richard Nixon announced that the nation is “sustained by our confidence in the will of God.”

37. Gerald Ford spoke out that “our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here the people rule. But there is a higher Power, by whatever name we honor Him, who ordains not only righteousness but love, not only justice but mercy.”
38. Jimmy Carter quoted Micah 6:8: “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”
39. Ronald Reagan stated that “we are a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free.”
40. George H. W. Bush also prayed: “Heavenly Father. . . make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will.”
41. Bill Clinton made one reference to the “Almighty.”
42. George W. Bush closed his address with, “God bless you, and God bless America.”
43. Barack Obama declared, “This is the source of our confidence—the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.”
44. Joseph Biden acknowledged the nation as “under God” and his oath to be taken “before God.”
45. Donald Trump testified that his life was saved “by God” in an assassination attempt. He added, “We will not forget God,” and then testified this nation to be “under God.”

While some of these were ambivalent references to a deist god, or mere traditional formalities and bare lip service, this Christian heritage still bears some significance to this day. There was not a single committed atheist among them. In every case, here is still seen a respect for the heritage, and an honor offered to that Power which resides high above the highest officer in the land.

When Governments Revolt

But not all nations share this Christian heritage. What then can be said for those who do not acknowledge God, or those governments which plainly revolt against Him? Does God ignore them? Evidently, God has in the past made room for ignorance as far as nations have lacked access to divine revelation. However, things have changed as of the coming of Christ. The apostle warned the pagan governors of Athens:

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30)

These days, many of the earth's rulers set themselves against the Lord and His Anointed, and they say, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us" (Ps. 2:2-3 KJV). The Jewish and Roman authorities tried this when they set out to crucify the Messiah in AD 30 (Acts 4:24-28). In line with Psalm 2, these rebels met their doom in AD 70 and AD 476, respectively.

God used King Nebuchadnezzar of ancient Babylon to correct the people of God, but His absolute control over the king is evident in the Book of Daniel. When the most powerful man on earth (at that time) puffed himself up in a bout of extreme pride, God brought him down. Nebuchadnezzar was put out to pasture in the "back forty" until he learned about the King of the universe, with whom:

**His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom is from generation to generation.
All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;**

He does according to His will in the army of heaven
 And among the inhabitants of the earth. (Daniel 4:34-35)

God still runs down bad rulers, dismisses them from their positions, and sends them off to an early death. Julian the Apostate (331–363) died at 31 years of age, after only a two-year reign. Ivan the Terrible of Russia (1530–1584) died at 53 years of age, to the relief of his tormented peoples. The extremely powerful Chinese emperor, Qin Shi Huang (259–210 BC), died at 49 years of age after an eleven-year reign. The only thing he left was the world’s most elaborate mausoleum covering 22 square miles. Napoleon (1769–1821) died a broken man on the island of St. Helena, at 51 years of age. Germany’s Third Reich lasted only twelve years, and Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) was dead and burned up at 56 years of age. Vladimir Lenin (1870–1924) held office in the Soviet Union for only six years. He was hurried off to meet his Maker at 53 years of age. Pol Pot, the butcher of Cambodia, survived just over three years in office (1975–1979). Idi Amin, the butcher-dictator of Uganda, only lasted eight years in office (1971–1979). God extends His mercy and exercises more patience with some than others. But in the scheme of things, the reign of wicked men does not last very long.

Wait on the LORD,
 And keep His way,
 And He shall exalt you to inherit the land;
 When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.
 I have seen the wicked in great power,
 And spreading himself like a native green tree.

Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more;
Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found. (Psalm 37:34-36)

Sphere Jurisdiction

If all legitimate authority, or the right to assume authority, rests with God, then this must apply to all subordinate authorities in heaven and earth. That authority must include family, church, and state. These are institutions established by the Creator Himself. God instituted the family jurisdiction when He created Adam and Eve, and delegated responsibility of dominion and *rule* in the home to the man (Gen. 3:16), and the duty of *helping* to the wife (Gen. 2:18).

The Lord God formally instituted the state directly after the flood upon the covenant made with Noah, which required capital punishment for murder (Gen. 9:6). Prior to this, as far as we know, there was no other divine mandate requiring civil penalties for any crime. No doubt, this came in response to the chaos of bloodshed and violence that proliferated upon the earth prior to the flood.

Finally, the church in the wilderness was formed among the descendants of Abraham when the Lord assembled them there to worship Him (Ex. 5:3; Acts 7:38). Prior to this, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had conducted family worship at Bethel and elsewhere in the Promised Land. The arrangements for this group of “called out ones” (known as “the church”) changed somewhat, according to mandates laid down in the New Testament.

The authority and responsibilities of family, church, and state are fairly well established in Scripture.

Family	Church	State
Discipline of children (Prov. 3:12)	Baptism/Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20-22; 12:13)	Justice, putting murderers to death (Gen. 9:6; Deut. 17:8)
Education of children (Deut. 6:7; Eph. 6:4)	Church discipline (Matt. 16:18-19; 18:17)	Executing wrath on evildoers (Rom. 13:4)
Food and medical care of children (Ex. 21:10; 1 Tim. 5:8)	Caring for elderly widows without family (1 Tim. 5:9-10)	Resolving civil disputes (Deut. 25:1-2)
Caring for elderly widows (1 Tim. 5:4-8)	Ordaining leaders (1 Tim. 4:14)	Defending the nation against marauders (Deut. 20:5)
Contract to marriage (Gen. 24)	Authoritative proclamation of the Word of God (Eph. 4:11-12)	

It should go without saying that the family or the head of household does not claim any authority under God to avenge a murder by executing the suspect. For the same reason, authority over the education of children has not been given to the church, beyond providing the regular preaching of the Word and the spiritual oversight of parents. While some portion of the Church has usurped powers not belonging to it in past centuries, this is hardly the case anymore. The state is the primary culprit now when it comes to crossing jurisdictional boundaries. Since the period of the Reformation, some states have retained control over the church. The King of England is still the official head of the Church of England. The modern state is more interested in controlling the family, displacing the family, and even destroying the family unit by various means. All over the world, government bureaucracy has made considerable progress at this by seizing control of welfare, education, and child protection. All of this has occurred just since the turn of the 20th Century.

There is a point at which the state does take a legitimate interest in family matters. Biblical law lays out these boundaries. On the one hand, the state has no business controlling the education of the children, requiring compulsory school attendance, or prosecuting educational neglect. Yet, the state may intervene in cases of physical abuse. The well-known *lex talionis* lays out clear boundaries for state involvement in the family. Where family members fight or where discipline is rendered and permanent harm is left on someone's body (scars, gouged-out eyes, etc.), the police and judges have a right to get involved (see Ex. 21:23-25; Lev. 24:19-20).

The government has no right to require a certain medical preventative like vaccinations for children in a family. However, *private schools* may justly require vaccines for any child attending the school. Large gatherings in confined areas may increase the possibility of the spreading of a disease, and schools may attempt to preempt this by requiring vaccines. But parents who would rather their children not take the vaccine should simply avoid using that particular private school. Respecting God's jurisdictions in these spheres would resolve many of these tensions in society.

The Purpose of Civil Government

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. 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. 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. (Romans 13:1-4)

This is the classic text detailing God's institution of a civil government. The state's purpose is to serve as a "terror" to those who practice evil. The state's primary role is defense and justice—bringing just punishment on criminals within their jurisdiction, and defending the country from invading troops. Killing murderers is a deterrent, by biblical definition. "For he does not bear the sword in vain" (Rom. 13:4). Those who do evil should be afraid for the quick and precise justice brought upon them for their criminal deeds.

This provides some reason for police academies, military schools, and the provision of major highways over which military equipment may be moved from one side of the country to another. All other services including the postal service, schools, welfare, healthcare, scientific research, social security, and regulative agencies are illegitimate. Involvement in transportation and infrastructure is limited to that which is provided for military purposes.

Amount Spent on Legitimate Government

	US	England	Brazil
Military (as % of GDP)	3.2%	2.5%	1%
Crime (as % of GDP)	1.3%	0.4%	1.4%
Total Government (as % of GDP)	48%	45%	46%
% Illegitimate	91%	94%	95%

Modern governments allocate exorbitant amounts of money for projects not assigned to them by God. The corresponding chart demonstrates how much of national economies are expended on legitimate government, proving beyond any doubt that most states can get by on less than 5% of the gross domestic product (the amount of money exchanged in the entire national economy in a given year).² Between 90% and 95% of the projects governments fund are not legitimate pursuits, as set out by divine authority.

Governments that emphasize missile defense systems, nuclear bomb shelters, execution of murderers, and border inspections are performing their legitimate tasks before God. Simply put, those governments that become lax with border inspections, the prosecution of criminals, and military defense are bad governments.

God never intended the state to bring salvation or fix our problems for us. Civil government's purpose is to make the best out of a bad situation. The fall introduced a terrible problem into the world—first, sin against God, but also sin against one another. Cain killed his brother, and before the flood, the earth was “filled with violence” (Gen. 6:11). This necessitated the institution of government to restrain the evil tendencies of man's wicked heart. These civil governments cannot change the heart or redeem mankind from this terrible plight. Human governments cannot save us. Educational programs cannot save us. Science and technology cannot save us. None of this will solve the problem of sin, conflict, poverty, disease, and death. The state can only provide a stopgap solution and a curtailment of gross evil.

Politicians running for office are always promising they will “make the world a better place,” “introduce a new golden age,” “eradicate poverty,” “end all wars,” or “shape our destiny.” These are vain promises, to say the least. None of these stated objectives are

the government's job. Any fundamental improvement of a nation or a people must come by the gospel of Jesus Christ, the transforming work of the Holy Spirit of God, and the work of the Church.

Making Too Much Out of Government

God has given the civil government certain responsibilities, but those do *not* include saving the world or fixing the hearts of the people or getting rid of poverty. Remember what Jesus said: “The poor you will always have with you” (Matt. 26:11).

Almost everybody makes too much out of civil government today. Conversations quickly turn to political subjects. Most radio talk shows will gravitate towards politics. It is the dominating subject of modern life. Most people have been educated with this view of the world. As compared with former times, the modern state makes up the largest part of human economy and activity. National and state governments spend 40 to 50% of the total income of the nation. The Roman Empire and other powerful governments never had more than 5 to 10% of their nation's income at their disposal.

Philosophers like Karl Marx and Jean-Jacques Rousseau have had an enormous impact on every aspect of modern life. These were the fathers of socialism, and theirs is the dominant view of all political parties in every country in the world, almost without exception. This view requires that the ownership and control of the economy remain in the hands of the state.

God's Limits on Government Spending

So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day." (1 Samuel 8:10-18)

To offer a brief overview of the biblical view of the state, God's intention for the civil government is really quite limited. First, He instituted a simple system of judges to take care of the criminal problems in Israel (Ex. 18:21ff). From the beginning, the Lord God was reluctant to centralize power in the state and allow His people to incorporate a king into their governance. But the people insisted upon it, and Samuel relented. He anointed King Saul for Israel, and then warned them that the king would take 10% of their produce in taxation, defined here as the essence of tyranny. Such taxation

would press them to “cry out” to God for deliverance from the heavy burden of despotism. Sadly, modern governments have turned out far worse than the cruel monarchies of the past, at least according to the standard of measurement described in 1 Samuel 8.

The Principle of “Rendering to Caesar”

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:15-21)

Here is the wisdom principle laid down by Christ. Years before, the Jews had entered into a military alliance with the Romans where, at that point, they had surrendered their right to rule themselves. Once an individual or a collective of persons has willingly given up some jurisdiction to others, they must abide by this agreement unless their rights can be redeemed in some other lawful way.

Federal and state governments controlled the education for most children in developed nations at the turn of the 21st Century. Families that checked their children into public schools

could not exempt themselves from the sex education classes, the transgender policies, the enforced vaccines, and the rest of it. This was the conclusion reached by US high courts by the 1990s, with the *Brown* (1954) and *Mozert* (1987) cases. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals determined in *Fields v. Palmdale School District* (2005) that parents could not exempt their primary school children from an explicit sex survey. The justices ruled that “once parents make the choice as to which school their children will attend, their fundamental right to control the education of their children is, at the least, substantially diminished.”

As soon as a family turns its medical needs over to the state, that same government will assume a vested interest in the persons for whom they take responsibility. They will feel obliged to dictate all other aspects of the family’s health and medical conditions. That government may freely assign certain health protocols including vaccines and other treatments, whether or not the family agrees with it. The principle stands: *What the government funds, the government controls*. The British government withdrew life support from Alfie Evans in 2018 against his parents’ wishes, but the child was reliant on government medical services. Then again, eight-month-old Indi Gregory was taken off life support in 2023, the UK government refusing the parents the right to take her to Italy for medical attention, or to let the child die at home. The heartless state will make these decisions, especially if the citizenry has signed the medical care of their children over to it.

Conclusion

The rise of tyranny, gross violations of sphere jurisdiction, the state's attempted takeover of the family, and the state's crusade to "save" the people adds up to a cosmic revolt against God and His Messiah-King. This only contributes to the breaking down of human society. The nuclear family has been further damaged by the imposition of the state over the last sixty years. That which is not conducted according to God's law order will eventually fail. Trains run much better on rails, and buses are built to run on roads. They do not drive well into lakes.

Where will all of this lead? The kings of the earth will quickly perish in the way (Ps. 2:12). God will bring "desolations in the earth" (Ps. 46:8). "A tribe is wiped off its icefield and the lights go out in Rome."³ That great city Babylon falls, again and again. The fire of the Lord descends upon the nations. Whether that be by temporal judgments or by the eternal verdict, the nations and their leaders in rebellion against heaven will receive their just deserts.

The wicked shall be turned into hell,
 And all the nations that forget God.
 For the needy shall not always be forgotten;
 The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.
 Arise, O LORD,
 Do not let man prevail;
 Let the nations be judged in Your sight.
 Put them in fear, O LORD,
 That the nations may know themselves to be but men.
 (Psalm 9:17-20)

Hungarian
Parliament building
in Budapest

