

FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM

**God decides right and wrong.
He determines the Law !**

God's law given at creation is known in history as the "Law of Nature".

Every person was expected to govern themselves and to care of their neighbors in need.

Self-government was the first and most important government.

1 The family was created by God for three things.

- 1. Produce children**
- 2. Educate children**
- 3. Care for the elderly**

2 Individuals and families are responsible for the care of the poor, the elderly, and for educating children.

People ignored God's plan and purpose and got into grievous sinning to the point of genocide. God saw the end of all flesh, Gen. 6:11-13.

One thing the Noahic Covenant/Constitution did was to turn over responsibility for punishing crime to man, Gen. 9:6.

So the State is a constitution or legal agreement made by God for man. God ordained both the Church and State.

3 God's purpose for government is to protect the good and punish evildoers.

**4 God condemns centralized government.
Example: Babel (2400 BC)**

The State was originally decentralized. Authority was vested in Elders and Patriarchs, Gen. 10:21.

**Affairs would be handled at the city gates,
Gen. 19:1, 22:17.**

However, city states and nations emerged with ambitious men who appealed to national pride by promising grand buildings and government services, Gen. 10:5, 12:10.

***Gen. 11:2, Let us build for ourselves a city . . .
And let us make a name for ourselves lest we be
dispersed.***

God caused the people to disperse when He confused them with languages.

**GOVERNMENT IS TO BE DIFFUSED & LIMITED!
State responsibility & power is to be limited and
decentralized.**

God's Cov./Constitution with Abraham was to be a model for nations (2200 BC).

God moved him out of Ur which was a pagan centralized city-state (*Gen. 11:31*).

Gen. 18:18, My Cov. Is with you . . . And all nations of the earth shall be blessed in Him.

By the time of Moses, Israel was electing leaders.

Deut. 1:13, Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I [Moses] will appoint them as your heads.'

Exodus 18:21, "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders . . .

**Israel was a Theocracy, but it was not an Ecclesiocracy. Both priests and judges decided matters. Moses was a judge, not a priest. Deut. 17:8-13,
2 Chron. 19:8-11, 26:16-20.**

Israel had no centralized gov. for the period of 400 yrs. during the time of the Judges.

Judges 21:25, Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. [no centralized gov.]

Even though God warned them about the dangers of centralizing gov., the people still demanded a king, 1 Sam. 8:10-20. (1043 BC)

This was a stupid decision, but God did not overrule it because that would have interfered with their right of self-determination which is essential to freedom.

5

Most State leaders should be elected.

A written constitution ratified by voluntary consent of the citizens is essential.

Moses presented a written constitution, the Mosaic Law, to be ratified by the people.

Ex. 19:5-8, 24:1-12

Exodus 24:7, Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken. we will do, and we will be obedient !"

God had knowledgeable, informed, rational people who consented to the Law.

6 A Constitution guaranteeing basic rights should be in writing and consented to by the people.

Prophets both influenced and endorsed leaders of State. They used “anointing” as a way to endorse leaders of State.

7 Leaders of state should be servants to the people.

Luke 22:25-26, And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' ²⁶ "But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.

**Gov. exists to serve man and to protect the rights of each person. The individual is superior in authority to the State. Titles over the last 2,000 yrs. have reflected this:
"king" , "lord",
"prime minister" = chief servant.**

State leaders are to be minister of God for good. They are to stay out of religion, education, and communication. 2 Chron. 26:16-23

8 State leaders are to protect the rights of all the people.

Luke 20:22-25, Caesar's image was on the coin, but God's image is in the soul of man. Man is to obey Caesar and Caesar is to protect the rights of man.

9 God has delegated limited authority to the state.

There is no such thing as unlimited submission to anyone other than to God.

Jesus gave instructions as to what we are to do when the State violates individual rights.

Matthew 10:17, "But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to the courts . . .

Luke 10:10-11, "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say [public protest], 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

Matt. 10:23, "But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next . . .

They were to flee or emigrate to another city and boycott the abusive one.

If that does not work: Luke 22:35-36, And He said to them, "When I sent you out without purse and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" And they said, "No, nothing." 36) And He said to them, "But now, let him who has a purse take it along, likewise also a bag, and let him who has no sword sell his robe and buy one.

Peter's misuse of the sword, Matt. 26:50-56.

10 Support government but
dispute it when it abuses its authority.

Political Protest by the apostles:

Acts 13:50-51

Acts 16:35-39

11 We are commanded to overcome evil
with good. Individuals, **Rom. 12:17-21**
Government, **Rom. 13:1-4**

12

There is nothing wrong with Christians getting elected or being involved in government.

Acts 16:23, Erastus, an example of a Christian holding office in government.

Matt. 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,. . . teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;

Ex. 18:21-22, 26, . . . select leaders from the people