

2-28-21

**UNDERSTANDING GOD'S GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS
OF POWER AND AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT HISTORY**

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

God has established the powers that be. God has all authority and He delegates that authority to whoever He chooses. To understand authority is to understand God.

There is no power but of God.

exousia, ex-oo-see'-ah; from 1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subj.) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (obj.) mastery (concr. magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:-authority, jurisdiction liberty, power, right, strength.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

exesti, ex'-es-tee; third pers. sing. pres. indic. of a comp. of 1537 and 1510; so also exon, ex-on'; neut. pres. part. of the same (with or without some form of 1510 expressed); impers. it is right (through the fig. idea of being out in public):-be lawful, let, X may (-est).

The word power, EXOUSIA, means authority, jurisdiction, magistrate, potentate, the one who makes the laws. Enforces the law.

Throughout the history of mankind, God has delegated authority and power and dominion to men.

It is God who has all dominion and power and authority, and He delegates authority to whoever He chooses.

If we look at the pattern of God's delegation of power and authority throughout the ages we can get a better idea of how authority works and God's pattern of delegating power

and authority to men for His honor and glory. We also can observe what happens when men neglect that commission or misuse it!

I. First Authority God Gave Man Was Over His Creation.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

He was commanded to subdue the earth.

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

God is pleased when we take His creation and tame it, and subdue it and beatify it, and make it orderly. Adam was placed in the garden to keep it and to dress it.

DRESS IT MEANS:

`abad, aw-bad'; a prim. root; to work (in any sense); by impl. to serve, till, (caus.) enslave, etc:-X be, keep in bondage, be bondmen, bond-service, compel, do, dress, ear, execute, + husbandman, keep, labour (-ing man), bring to pass, (cause to, make to) serve (-ing, self), (be, become) servant (-s), do (use) service, till (-er), transgress from margin, (set a) work, be wrought, worshipper.

Adam was to till and take captive the garden, and let it serve him. He was to bring the garden into bondage and let it serve him and please him.

To Keep it means:

shamar, shaw-mar'; a prim. root; prop. to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; gen. to protect, attend to, etc.:-beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for),

He was to keep it, that means to guard and protect it, to hedge it about, protect it, to stand guard over it.

I think there were a lot of the beasts that the Lord made that would have trampled it under but Adam was to chase them off and protect this beautiful place.

This was all part of taking power over God's creation. Subduing it, taking dominion over it.

This insinuated there were enemies that would threaten Adam's dominion over the garden.

When Adam and Eve fell, that dominion was interrupted and man lost his power over the garden. The environment became rebellious and hard to subdue. Adam's dominion became strained:

Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Genesis 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Now the elements would fight Adam's dominion. The ground would not cooperate, the weeds would proliferate faster than the crops. Now Adam's dominion would become harder to maintain.

This was the first delegation of power and authority and that authority and power was ordained of God.

II. After the Fall God Ordained the Institution of the Home:

God established a home and it's authority. His plan for the home was simple.

1. God established parents to have authority over children until they leave and get married.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

- A. God ordained that the husband would be the head of the home.
- B. The wife's authority was to be exercised in child training.
- C. Children were to learn obedience till they left home and got married.

Because of sin, this institution became corrupted, and God had to intervene to salvage it. The home was the training ground for future families.

First Cain refused to follow the teaching of Adam to provide a proper sacrifice to come to God.

Genesis 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Genesis 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

You know the story, Cain got angry at his brother and killed him, thus Cain's seed proliferated the earth and the earth became vigilant and corrupt. Evil generally proliferates faster than good. Evil is like a cancer that will take over if left unchecked and unrestrained.

We read this:

Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

Genesis 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Genesis 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Genesis 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Sin always perverts God's ordained powers and authority. In this case God established families to populate the earth and men corrupted those family lines through perverted marriages.

Genesis 4:19-24 Lamech took two wives, and then murdered another man and bragged about it as if he was justified.

¹⁹ And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

²⁰ And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.

²¹ And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

²² And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

²³ And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

From here is just got worse and worse and worse.

In the end God had to intervene and cleanse this world of these corrupt people.

Genesis 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Noah alone was perfect in his generations. He did not corrupt himself in his marriages neither he nor his sons. He nor his sons intermarried with the corrupt line.

So God intervened and wiped out this whole corrupt world and all the children of Cain, and only Noah and his sons were left to repopulate the earth.

So we see the failure of Adam exercising power over the garden, and his authority and restraint over the plants and ground was corrupted.

And in the process of time, we see how families failed to exercise restraint over their passions and children and the whole world became corrupt violent, and wicked. So God had to destroy all the families of the earth except Noah's family.

After the flood, the whole planet was effected, and the earth became even more inhospitable and the thorns and thistles were magnified, in a hostile planet. So hostile was it that God gave men the permission to eat meat, with the exception of eating blood. The whole ecosystem was affected. This is when the whole world was plunged into an ice age, the polar caps froze, and ever since the world has been gradually warming. This is what the scientists have only recently observed in what they call global warming or climate change. All this has been taking place since the flood.

We read this:

Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:1 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

Genesis 8:2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;

Genesis 8:3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

The other day I heard a terrible wind, sounded like a train going by, and when we woke up in the morning there was ice everywhere. The wind brought a fast freeze.

It was during this process that in the Northern parts of the world, the waters froze over. The whole planet experienced cataclysmic environmental changes. There were mountains where there were no mountains, valleys rivers lakes, the whole face of the planet was changed. Before the flood men had longevity of life, after the flood men did not live as long. This was probably one of the reasons dinosaurs went extinct.

The dispensation of the family was a miserable failure spiritually.

The family needed something to restrain it outside of itself.

Thus, God established the institution of civil government.

III. THE INSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT.

God ordained the institution of Government and nations to regulate families.

- 1. God originally intended for families to spread out and develop small communities rather than develop national identities.**
- 2. After the flood God instituted the responsibility of government to punish evildoers.**

Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Genesis 9:2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

Genesis 9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Genesis 9:4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Genesis 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Genesis 9:7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

This was a foretaste of what was yet to come. A government of men to restrain other men. To bear the sword and punish evildoers and murderers.

This first attempt at human government was at the tower of Babel. The attempt was to establish a one-world government.

3. At the tower of Babel God thwarted off man's attempt to establish a one world government.

Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Genesis 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

**A. All men having one language and one speech allowed for unity.
Good communication is essential for unity.**

**B. They decided to build a city in the plain of Shinar.
Somewhere west or south west of Ararat.
IRAN, TURKEY, IRAQ, SYRIA ???**

C. WHY WAS GOD DISPLEASED WITH THIS ENDEAVOR?

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

This established nations based on languages, and world governments.

It was God's design to have different nations.

It was God's design to have different families.

So out of these nations God could choose a special nation!

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Israel was supposed to be a light to the other nations. An example of a people that would be blessed of God for doing what was right.

What is the purpose of nations?

A. NATIONS ARE ORDAINED OF GOD TO PROVIDE A HAVEN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

Jesus and his family fled to Egypt.

Joseph and the children of Israel found refuge in Egypt.

God's remnant found refuge in Babylon during the captivity.

B. NATIONS ARE ORDAINED OF GOD TO PUNISH OTHER NATIONS WHO BECOME WICKED.

God raised up Assyria and Babylon to punish Israel, and then he raised up other nations to punish Assyrian and Babylon:

Zephaniah 2:13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness.

Jeremiah 50:18 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

Jeremiah 50:9 For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

Jeremiah 50:10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD.

C. GOVERNMENT IS ORDAINED OF GOD TO PUNISH EVILDOERS AND REWARD THOSE WHO DO GOOD:

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Before the flood people were unrestrained. There was no one ordained to punish evildoers. Men did as they pleased and as they wanted. The stronger oppressed the weaker, etc.

With the establishment of human government that changed. No individual was as strong as the power of the corporate community and government. God raised up kings and magistrates that made laws that restrained individuals and families that got out of hand.

Israel was to be a government that was ruled by divine law. A shining light to the gentile nations. When Israel failed to be that light, but in fact followed the other nations, God indicted the nation as a spiritual adulterer and punished Israel.

Notice how Ezekiel preached to the nation about her spiritual adulteries:

Ezekiel 23:22 Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side;

Ezekiel 23:23 The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them: all of them desirable young men, captains and rulers, great lords and renowned, all of them riding upon horses.

Ezekiel 23:24 And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels, and with an assembly of people, which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about: and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments.

Ezekiel 23:25 And I will set my jealousy against thee, and they shall deal furiously with thee: they shall take away thy nose and thine ears; and thy remnant shall fall by the sword: they shall take thy sons and thy daughters; and thy residue shall be devoured by the fire.

Amos 6:14 But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness.

IV. THE INSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH AND JESUS CHRIST.

In the fullness of time, God sent his son into the world, to preach to the nation Israel and to seek to bring her back to God.

Jesus was their Messiah, her King. He presented Himself as her King. But the national leadership was too occupied and enamored with Rome to receive their King. All this was the plan of God. For Isaiah said Christ would be rejected and be crucified and take upon Himself the sins of the World.

Ultimately the enemies of God needed to be defeated. Sin and death itself needed to be taken care of.

So in the fulness of time Jesus came into the world and became the mediator of a New Covenant. This covenant would put the law of God in the hearts of His people. In other words, the problem with mankind was their sinful hearts.

It was men's wicked hearts that caused them to be corrupted, which ultimately ended in the destruction of the world in the days of Noah and the establishments of the nations.

It was men's sinful hearts that caused the dividing of the nations, and the establishment of that Holy People Israel to be a grand experiment to see whether a nation could follow the Lord and show how following God's laws and ways would produce a blessing.

The hardened hearts of the nations ultimately led to their destruction and dispersion. Yet God gave some important promises to the nation. God said, the throne of David would last forever.

So in the process of time Jesus came to this planet was born of a virgin, by passed the sin nature of Adam and defeated Satan, sin and death on he cross. He now is the mediator of a New Covenant. Yet the nation rejected Jesus as their rightful King. He was cut off from the nation. So Jesus now gave a commission to His disciples to present the new covenant to the whole world, to all nations. To every people of every nation, whoever will may come and become one of God's covenant people. All they needed to do was receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah, and receive His spirit into their hearts and lives and now they can become part of what Jesus called a foolish nation. That foolish nation is the Church.

So Jesus established His church to be a light to the world. The salt of the earth.

Notice how each of these institutions was a result of the failure of the previous institution. Each had greater authority than the previous. Each was ordained as a result of the failure of the previous.

The church was given to change hearts. The government was given to restrain evil actions. The government bears the sword. The Church bears the sword of the spirit.

1. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

A. The word means assembly.

ek, ek; or ex, ex; a prim. prep. denoting origin (the point whence motion or action proceeds), from, out (of place, time or cause; lit. or fig.; direct or remote):-after, among, X are, at, betwixt (-yond), by (the means of), exceedingly, (+ abundantly above), for (-th), from (among, forth, up), + grudgingly, + heartily, X heavenly, X hereby, + very highly, in, ...ly, (because, by reason) of, off (from), on, out among (from, of), over, since, X thenceforth, through, X unto, X vehemently, with (-out). Often used in composition, with the same general import; often of completion.

kaleo, kal-eh'-o; akin to the base of 2753; to "call" (prop. aloud, but used in a variety of applications, dir. or otherwise):-bid, call (forth), (whose, whose sur-) name (was called).

Literally the word means to call out, to assemble, a group of called out ones. People called out to assemble together for the great cause of proclaiming Jesus Christ and doing His will on planet earth. The Church is to be a voice, and influence to the world.

It is that group of people called out of the world, Those who profess Christ, united with Him in spirit, have followed Him in believers baptism, and are assembling themselves together, seeking to obey all things He has commanded them.

B. The church is also called a foolish nation:

A foolish nation because we have no land, no military, no palace, no parliament. Its citizens transcend barriers borders, and nationalities. We have citizens in Africa, like brother Noah Quarishie, citizens in India like GS Nair, citizens in Philippines like brother Abante, The gospel is preached to all nations all countries and nationalities. This nation transcends, race, color, ethnic orientation.

THE O.T. Predicted this institution:

Deuteronomy 32:21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Romans 10:19 But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Romans 10:20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

Romans 10:21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Why the term foolish nation?

NO MILITARY.

NO LAND.

NO FORMAL GOVERNMENT. UNITED ALL LOCAL BODIES. INVISIBLE KING.

C. The church is called the bride of Christ:

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

D. The Church is called God's house:

I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

I Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

E. The Church is called God's Vineyard or Plantation:

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

3. What is the purpose of the church?

A. TO BE A SENDING AGENT FOR MISSIONS: TO CALL OUT OTHERS TO THIS BODY

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

B. TO BE A PLACE OF GUIDANCE FOR HIS CHILDREN.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

C. TO BE A PLACE OF DISCIPLINE AND DECISION MAKING.

I Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

I Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

I Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

I Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

I Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

I Corinthians 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

D. TO BE A TESTING GROUND FOR FUTURE REWARDS.

I Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

I Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

I Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

IV. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE THREE INSTITUTIONS THAT GOD ORDAINED STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND NOT TRESPASS THEIR BOUNDS OF AUTHORITY.

Matthew 26:51 And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

Matthew 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Matthew 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Matthew 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Matthew 22:19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

Matthew 22:20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Whenever one institution crosses over into the realm of the other, then there is devastation and problems.

1. THE AUTHORITY OF THE FAMILY.

There is no greater institution to raise up children and nurture an environment to do so than the family. We read:

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

The family is where the image of God is nurtured into the fabric and minds of young people. It is where a child should experience love, nurture, restraint and discipline. It is where the image of God is played out in the physical world.

The Father ought to be the authority, the mother, the nurturer, and comforter. The child is training for adulthood and the time when they will leave the home and become a place where all this is perpetuated.

There is no other place better suited to nurture, love and grow physically and spiritually than in the family. It is not the job of the government or church to replace the family.

Hillary Clintons, book, *It Takes A Village*, is a dangerous treatise. It doesn't take a village to raise a child. It takes a family. It is the Job of government or the village as Hillary is alluding to, to support the family not usurp the role of the family.

Much of the Christian School movement was a failure, because it failed to address the problems of the families, and instead tried to make up for the inadequacies of the family. You can't whitewash the problems of a child's home. How can you teach a child who cannot be controlled? It is the job of the parents to restrain and control their children, not the school. A school cannot make up for the bad character that has been taught and instilled in children because of bad child training in the home.

The problems of the home are spiritual problems. These are problems of the heart. Salvation changes the heart. So it is the job of the church to change their hearts through the gospel.

¹⁹ And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

²⁰ And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.

²¹ And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

²² And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

²³ And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

What Lamech did grew into a world of violence and corruption in the area of marriages and violence. This spread until the whole world was corrupted.

2. *CONSIDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT.*

The authority of human government was established to punish those who would not be restrained through the institution of the family. Sinful people will do sinful things. The number one preoccupation of the police is spent dealing with families who are at odds. The Cains of this world are still throwing stones looking to kill each other. The job of government is to punish evildoers. They bear the sword. They uphold the law. Those who break the law are punished by the powers that be. It is not the job of the government to hinder the parent from doing their job. In the day that we live we are seeing a perversion of this. I have seen times when the civil authorities came in and punished parents for doing their job of restraining their children. The Bible says,

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Proverbs 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

When the civil authorities try to dictate to the parent how to restrain their children, the parents should reject that mandate and do what the Bible tells them to do. When a child cannot be restrained by the parents then the parent could take their child to the magistrate for restraining.

DEU 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

DEU 21:19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and **bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;**

DEU 21:20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

DEU 21:21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Government should never interfere with the mandate that God has given to His church. The church is ordained to preach and teach the Word of God. When the government tells the church it cannot preach and teach the Bible the government has overstepped its authority.

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

A strong family should be a support to a God ordained government, and so too the church should be a good support to a Biblically sound judicial system. After all, when you read the moral law of the Bible, what government would not want an institution that would guide people in the way of God's moral law? What government would not appreciate a system of a group of people that are taught not to steal or murder? A government that ceases to do what they have been ordained to do will fall under the judgment of God. In the past God raised up other nations to punish such a perverted nation.

3. THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH GONE ASTRAY.

In the book of Revelation we read about what happens to a church that ceases to do what the Lord ordained for that church to do. Jesus said,

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Notice how in the book of Revelation each church had their own set of problems, weaknesses, and strengths. This argues that each church was independent and autonomous. Under Christ alone and not a denomination.

V. THE FINAL INSTITUTION OF POWER ON EARTH.

Ultimately everything is leading up to the final kingdom and authority that God will establish on earth:

That will be when Jesus puts down all authority of powers and establish His Kingdom on earth.

In the end times, we read that the world governments will unite under the leadership of the antichrist. The church will fall away into apostasy, and the families of the earth will become corrupt. There will be a corruption of all three institutions there will be great persecution against the saints of God.

We believe that just before these final days, God will supernaturally remove his remnant from the earth and usher in the final 7 year period of prophetic history called the tribulation period.

During the tribulation period Israel will embrace the antichrist, only to realize they were deceived. It is then that the false messiah will turn on them and they will call on Christ to come to their rescue. It is then that Jesus will come back to earth to claim His rightful throne and will rule the world from Jerusalem for a thousand years.

VI. THE FINAL ETERNAL KINGDOM THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Conclusion:

Ultimately throughout history we see that men have failed and God has triumphed. In the end God's servants will be rewarded, and our labors will not be in vain.

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

How sad it is that so many are trading the pleasures of the present on the altar of the eternal. We have opportunities galore to serve our Lord. Let us not squander these opportunities to serve our King!

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

What an opportunity it is to serve the Lord, let us be excited about this opportunity. What we do now for Christ will determine our position in the eternal Kingdom.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.