

Episode #637 The Why Question 22: Why Government?

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. One of the sad situations we face in this world is the sad fact of government oppression. Those who have charge over the lives of others, instead of respecting those lives and seeking the good of all, use their power to harm and oppress. When we consider that in the 20th century more people died at the hands of their own government than had died in all known wars throughout history up to that point, we can see just how bad government oppression can be. Why does God allow this kind of wickedness to take place?

III. Government in the Beginning.

- A. Genesis 1:26-28. God’s act of creating Adam was to give him dominion.
- B. Genesis 9:5-7. The establishment of capital punishment made human government a God-ordered necessity.
- C. Genesis 10:8-10. The first government we see in Scripture is that of Nimrod, and it appears his was in defiance of the LORD.
- D. Genesis 11:1-9. Men attempted a “one-world government” in defiance of God, and He disrupted it by confusing the languages.
- E. Genesis 14:1-2. The first we read of “kings.” These were Canaanite kings. Notice that most kings then were over city-states.
- F. Genesis 14:18-20. The first mention of a righteous king.

IV. The Bible and Government.

- A. Exodus 21:12-19. The law set forth after the “Ten Commandments” has to do with governmental rule. Notice the death penalty.
- B. Exodus 22:1-6. Notice the application of law to everyday life.
- C. Exodus 22:16-27. Notice the mixture of religious laws with sexual laws and laws of commerce. There was no “separation of church and state” in God’s law.
- D. Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Jehovah God made provision for a human king over Israel.
- E. Judges 2:11-19. The book of Judges is all about the rule of judges over Israel following the deaths of Moses and Joshua.
- F. The books of Samuel are about the rulers Eli, Samuel, Saul, and David.
- G. The book of Kings is all about the rule of various kings over both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. The same is true of Chronicles. Even after that we have kings in Daniel, Esther, and Ezra-Nehemiah. Even Job may have been a king, Job 29:25. Much of the message of the prophets was to rulers.
- H. What was the message of John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus, and the apostles? Mark 1:14-15. The kingdom of God!

V. God’s Reaction to Oppression.

- A. Ezekiel 22:29-31. Oppression fills the Adonai Jehovah with indignation.
- B. Yet government oppression is common. In the Twentieth Century, more people died at the hands of their own government than had died in all known wars throughout history! Government oppression is very real and frightening.

VII. Conclusion: Reacting to panic over a virus our government has enacted a police state which has taken away many of our freedoms and put many people out of work, destroyed many businesses, and crushed many dreams. Many times even the best of rulers do not know what to

do to properly rule the people. Oppression has been common throughout history, and never more common than in recent times. Government is very dangerous. Yet God is very interested in government and righteous rule. We look forward to a day when God will take control of the world and rule it as He sees fit. May that day come soon, when all oppression will end!