

# Understanding God's Government

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

1. Different kinds of worldly governments
  - a. **Anarchy** - an absence of government or the failure to recognize an existing government.
    - Characterized by, "Every man for himself."
    - Misconception: God's Kingdom is anarchy because He created everything and now exists apart from it, never intervening or acting on it.
  - b. **Totalitarian** - centralized form of government that requires complete subservience to the state, often a single dictator or tyrant.
    - Characterized by, "I'm the boss. Obey, or else!"
    - Misconception: God's Kingdom is a totalitarian government because God is the Absolute Dictator of the Universe.
  - c. **Aristocracy** - government run by the highest class of society, typically those with hereditary titles or offices who are family members or relatives. This is group with privilege and power that is served by everyone else.
    - Characterized by, "Us and them — us first."
    - Misconception: God's Kingdom is an aristocracy because it will be ruled by God and elite chosen ones.
  - d. **Democracy** - a form of government in which the power resides in the governed.
    - Characterized by, "Popularity determines leadership and the right decisions are established by consensus."
    - Misconception: God's Kingdom is a democracy because we have a democracy.
  - e. None of these worldly forms of government are matched by what God's Word says about His Kingdom's government.
2. Analyzing government models and what is revealed in God's Word..
  - a. **(I) Like anarchy, there is rebellion, confusion, disorder, strife, persecution, pain, and death in the world, yet . . .**

**(II) . . . Scripture says that the LORD is not a God of chaos, confusion, strife, and disorder.**

*For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the LORD," he says, "and there is no other. **Isaiah 45:18** (New Living Translation)*

*. . . for God is not a God of confusion but of peace . . . **1 Corinthians 14:33** (NASB)*

*But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. **1 Corinthians 14:40** (NIV)*

**The inconsistency in these two observations provides a clue to God's model of government.**

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### b. (I) Like a dictatorship, God is the Absolute Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, ...

*But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Psalm 115:3*  
(NASB)

*O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. 2 Chronicles 20:6* (NASB)

*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'. Isaiah 46:10* (NASB)

*All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?" Daniel 4:35*  
(NASB)

**(II) . . . yet evil men did whatever they wanted to God. They arrested Christ, publicly humiliated Him, beat and tortured Him, and killed Him on a cross. For millennia, men have defied God and His commandments.**

**The inconsistency between these two observations provides another clue to God's model of government.**

### c. (I) Like an aristocracy, the Kingdom will be ruled by Christ and by the saints — a select group of individuals . . .

*Thus says the LORD, "I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain." Zechariah 8:3*

*And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. Zechariah 14:9*

*But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. Daniel 7:18*

*As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight. Psalm 16:3*

(NOTE: "majestic ones" comes from the Hebrew word "addir", which BDB says means "kings of nations, noble ones, chieftains".)

AND if a government has an absolute Ruler, who is King, and a group of ruling governors, it obviously isn't a Democracy!

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**(II) . . . yet, regarding the leaders of God's Kingdom, the Bible says the following;**

Sitting down, He called the twelve and \*said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." **Mark 9:35**

*It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave . . . **Matthew 20:26, 27***

*He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; on them he has set the world. **1 Samuel 2:8***

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 5:3 (NASB)***

*Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. **Matthew 5:5 (NASB)***

**In God's government, the select, elite rulers are "poor in spirit", "gentle", "servants of all", not first, but "last".**

So, what kind of government does God have for His Kingdom?

- It is NOT a government of coercion, oppression, or exploitation of the many by the few. Nor is it God's will that the "right" be forced on His citizens; rather that His citizens know and be fully convinced of the right so that it needs to enforcement.
  - God's government grants authority to some and more authority to others, with God being the ultimate authority.
  - Those with authority have the greatest responsibility for the welfare of others first. They must have an unselfish character, humility, gentleness, a servant's heart.
3. The government of the Kingdom of God is a **Perfect Meritocracy**, which exists nowhere in the world or in human history.
- a. **Meritocracy** - a system of government where individuals become rulers on the basis of their character and ability to rule wisely. Ideally, rank within the ruling government is determined by character and ability, as well.
  - b. God is the only omnipotent, omniscient one who is holy, righteous, and flawless, therefore, He oversees all levels of His government. His wisdom is far above anyone else. He alone is fit to oversee all activities of the Kingdom. He has already demonstrated His willingness to sacrifice all for His people through Christ.
  - c. Under God, those who reign with Christ do so on the basis of individual "merit". What qualifies someone to be a ruler in God's government? Consider these Bible verses.

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*Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

**Romans 8:17 (NIV)**

*If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. 2*

**Timothy 2:12 (New Living Bible)**

*I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **Revelation 20:4 (NIV)***

*The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. **Psalms 37:29-31 (NASB)***

*He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **Revelation 3:21 (NASB)***

4. Sanctification is the training saints undergo to be prepared and qualified to rule and reign with Christ in God's government
  - a. Sanctification means that we say and do the right thing, as revealed by God's Word and the Holy Spirit, in spite of what others do, say, or demand of us. An overcomer does this even if it means they forfeit their life.
  - b. Sanctification means that we say and do the right thing, as revealed by God's Word and the Holy Spirit, in spite of what we think and feel. An overcomer does not give into selfishness or temptation, but lives out their faith through faithfulness and obedience.
  - c. Sanctification is the process of learning the wisdom of God's ways by living them, explaining them with others, and proving them through faithfulness.
  - d. Sanctification is the process by which we become indelibly convinced and irreversibly committed to the Lord and His ways.
  - e. Sanctification is a process of growing in love so that the Kingdom of God becomes the family of God. God is our Father. We are His children. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. In this government, there is only one law — agape love.