

THE GOVERNMENT OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

God's Kingdom, Man's Dominion, Satan's Usurpation, and the Saints' Future Rule With Christ

Abstract

Scripture reveals that government did not originate with man, but with God. The throne of the LORD is established in heaven, His kingdom ruleth over all, and all earthly authority is accountable to Him. Man was created to exercise dominion under God, but through sin, rebellion, and Satanic influence, the governments of this world have often come under the power of darkness. The Bible shows a conflict between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world, between righteous rule and corrupt dominion, between Christ the rightful King and Satan the temporary usurper. Scripture also teaches that the saints are being tested, trained, chastened, proven, and prepared to reign with Christ, judge the world, judge angels, and replace the present evil principalities with righteous government under the Lord Jesus Christ. This article examines the government of heaven and earth through the King James Bible, showing God's original design, Satan's counterfeit system, Christ's restoration of dominion, and the future governmental role of the faithful.

I. Foundational Truth: God's Government Is Supreme

The highest government in Scripture is not earthly. It is heavenly. God's throne is above every throne, His kingdom is above every kingdom, and His dominion is over all.

Psalm 103:19

"The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all."

Psalm 22:28

"For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations."

Psalm 47:7-8

“For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.”

Daniel 4:17

“This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: **to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men**, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

Daniel 4:34-35

“And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, **and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever**, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and **he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth**: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

Doctrinal Insight

The first principle of biblical government is that God rules from heaven over all creation. Earthly rulers may possess temporary offices, but God possesses eternal dominion. Every throne, nation, king, prince, judge, and power is accountable to the throne of God.

II. God’s Original Design: Man Was Created for Dominion Under God

Man’s governmental calling began in creation. Adam was not created merely to survive on earth, but to rule under God’s authority.

Genesis 1:26-28

“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**. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male and female created he them**. 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.”

Psalm 8:4-8

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; **thou hast put all things under his feet:** All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.”

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.”

Doctrinal Insight

Man’s dominion was never meant to be independent from God. Adam was created as God’s image-bearer and steward. Earthly government, therefore, was intended to reflect heavenly government: order, stewardship, fruitfulness, obedience, righteousness, and dominion under God.

III. The Fall: Man’s Government Becomes Vulnerable to Satanic Usurpation

The fall introduced rebellion into man’s dominion. By obeying the serpent rather than God, man opened the door for Satanic influence over earthly affairs.

Genesis 3:1-6

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. **And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, **God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, **then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, **and a tree to be desired to make one wise,** she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Romans 5:12

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; **and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**”

2 Corinthians 11:3

“But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty**, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

Doctrinal Insight

The original governmental rebellion began with a false word against God’s Word. Satan’s method was to challenge God’s command, tempt man to self-rule, and offer godlike authority apart from obedience. This is the root of every ungodly government: man ruling without God, against God, or as if he were God.

IV. Satan’s Temporary Authority Over the Kingdoms of This World

Scripture shows that Satan exercises real influence over the kingdoms of this world, though his authority is temporary, derivative, and subject to God’s final judgment.

Luke 4:5-8

“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, **shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time**. And the devil said unto him, **All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them:** for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan:** for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

John 12:31

“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

John 14:30

“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: **for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.**”

John 16:11

“Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

1 John 5:19

“And we know that we are of God, and **the whole world lieth in wickedness.**”

Doctrinal Insight

Satan is not the rightful King. He is a usurper, deceiver, accuser, tempter, and prince of this world system. His governments are built on pride, worship, deception, control, accusation, violence, and rebellion against God. Christ refused Satan’s shortcut to earthly power because the kingdoms of this world must be redeemed, judged, and lawfully restored under God.

V. Principalities, Powers, and Spiritual Wickedness in High Places

The conflict over earthly government is not merely human. Scripture shows that evil spiritual powers operate behind corrupt earthly systems.

Ephesians 6:10-13

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places**. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**”

Colossians 1:12-16

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were

all things created, **that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible**, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**”

Colossians 2:14-15

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nauling it to his cross**; And having spoiled principalities and powers, **he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**”

Daniel 10:12-13

“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: **for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God**, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, **Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me**; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

Daniel 10:20-21

“Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: **and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come**. But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: **and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.**”

Doctrinal Insight

Earthly government is affected by invisible government. Scripture reveals thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, princes over kingdoms, and spiritual wickedness in high places. This confirms that the battle for nations is not merely political, military, or economic. It is spiritual government manifesting through earthly structures.

VI. God’s Government on Earth Was to Be Righteous, Lawful, and Covenantal

God gave Israel laws, judges, rulers, priests, prophets, and kings. These offices were intended to bring heavenly order into earthly society.

Exodus 18:21-22

“Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people **able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;** and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that **every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge:** so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.”

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

“When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, **and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;** Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: **one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee:** thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, **to the end that he should multiply horses:** forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: **neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.** And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, **that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:** And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: **that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:** That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, **to the right hand, or to the left:** to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”

2 Samuel 23:3

“The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, **He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.**”

Proverbs 29:2

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: **but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**”

Proverbs 14:34

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

Doctrinal Insight

God’s earthly government requires righteous character, fear of God, obedience to His law, humility, justice, restraint, and covenant faithfulness. The ruler is not to become a god over the people. He is to remain under God and under the law.

VII. Man's Government Apart From God Becomes Beastly

When government rejects God, Scripture often portrays it as proud, violent, idolatrous, oppressive, or beastly.

Genesis 11:4-9

“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. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 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. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, **that they may not understand one another's speech.** So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: **and they left off to build the city.** 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.**”

1 Samuel 8:6-7

“But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, **Give us a king to judge us.** And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: **for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.**”

1 Samuel 8:10-18

“And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, **This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you:** He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; **and some shall run before his chariots.** And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; **and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.** And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, **and give them to his servants.** And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, **and give to his officers, and to his servants.** And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, **and your asses, and put them to his work.** He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; **and the LORD will not hear you in that day.**”

Daniel 7:3

“And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.”

Daniel 7:17

“These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”

Revelation 13:1-2

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, **having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, **and his mouth as the mouth of a lion:** and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

Doctrinal Insight

Man’s government apart from God tends toward centralization, pride, self-exaltation, taxation, oppression, militarization, enslavement, idolatry, and beastly dominion. Babel, the rejected kingship of God in First Samuel, Daniel’s beasts, and Revelation’s beast all reveal the same pattern: when man refuses God’s government, he becomes vulnerable to Satan’s counterfeit government.

VIII. Christ Is the Rightful King and Heir of All Government

The solution to corrupted earthly government is not lawless revolution or human utopia. The solution is the Lord Jesus Christ, the rightful King, Son of David, Son of man, Son of God, and heir of all nations.

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: **and the government shall be upon his shoulder:** and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, **upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom,** to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**”

Luke 1:31-33

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, **and shalt call his name JESUS**. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: **and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David**: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; **and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**”

Matthew 28:18

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**”

Ephesians 1:20-23

“Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, **and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places**, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, **and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come**: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, **the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**”

Revelation 19:15-16

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, **that with it he should smite the nations**: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: **and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**”

Doctrinal Insight

Christ is not only a spiritual comforter. He is King. The government is upon His shoulder. His rule is eternal. All power in heaven and earth belongs to Him. He is far above every principality, power, might, and dominion. Every counterfeit government must ultimately yield to Him.

IX. The Kingdoms of This World Will Become the Kingdoms of Christ

Scripture does not end with Satan’s government ruling the earth. It ends with the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of the Lord and of His Christ.

Daniel 2:44

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, **which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, **but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**”

Daniel 7:13-14

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven**, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, **that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him**: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

Revelation 11:15

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ**; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

Revelation 11:17-18

“Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, **which art, and wast, and art to come**; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and **the time of the dead, that they should be judged**, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, **and them that fear thy name, small and great**; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”

Doctrinal Insight

The Bible’s governmental storyline moves from God’s original dominion, to man’s fall, to Satanic usurpation, to Christ’s victory, to the saints’ inheritance, to the full restoration of the kingdoms of this world under the Lord Jesus Christ.

X. Earth as a Test and Training Ground for Future Rule

Scripture supports the premise that this present life is a time of testing, proving, faithfulness, stewardship, obedience, and preparation for future rulership.

Luke 16:10-12

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: **and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.** If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, **who will commit to your trust the true riches?** And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, **who shall give you that which is your own?**”

Luke 19:12-19

“He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country **to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.** And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.** But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, **We will not have this man to reign over us.** And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, **then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money,** that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, **Well, thou good servant:** because thou hast been faithful in a very little, **have thou authority over ten cities.** And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, **Be thou also over five cities.**”

Matthew 25:20-23

“And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, **Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents:** behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, **Well done, thou good and faithful servant:** thou hast been faithful over a few things, **I will make thee ruler over many things:** enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, **Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents:** behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, **Well done, good and faithful servant;** thou hast been faithful over a few things, **I will make thee ruler over many things:** enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

2 Timothy 2:11-12

“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, **we shall also reign with him:** if we deny him, he also will deny us:”

Revelation 2:26-27

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, **to him will I give power over the nations:** And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; **as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers:** even as I received of my Father.”

Revelation 3:21

“To him that overcometh **will I grant to sit with me in my throne,** even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Doctrinal Insight

The parables of the pounds and talents directly connect present faithfulness with future rulership. The reward for faithful stewardship is governmental authority: “authority over ten cities,” “over five cities,” and “ruler over many things.” This strongly supports the premise that life on earth is a proving and training ground for future service in Christ’s kingdom.

XI. The Saints Shall Replace Wicked Rulers and Inherit the Kingdom

Scripture teaches that the saints will receive the kingdom, judge the world, judge angels, reign with Christ, and exercise authority over nations.

Daniel 7:18

“But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.”

Daniel 7:21-22

“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints of the most High**; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Daniel 7:27

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High**, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

“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?
Know ye not that **we shall judge angels?** how much more things that pertain to this life?”

Revelation 5:9-10

“And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof:** for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood **out of every kindred,**

and tongue, and people, and nation;

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: **and we shall reign on the earth.**”

Revelation 20:4

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and **judgment was given unto them:** and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, **and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands;** and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

Revelation 22:5

“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; **for the Lord God giveth them light:** and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

Doctrinal Insight

The saints are not merely rescued from earth. They are prepared to rule under Christ. Daniel says the saints take and possess the kingdom. Paul says the saints shall judge the world and angels. Revelation says the redeemed are made kings and priests and shall reign on the earth. This directly supports the premise that faithful believers will replace wicked rulers, fallen principalities, and corrupt powers under Christ’s restored government.

XII. The Present Battle Is Training in Obedience, Endurance, and Righteous Judgment

The saints are trained through obedience, suffering, discernment, faithfulness, and spiritual warfare.

Hebrews 5:8

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

Hebrews 12:6-11

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and **scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.** If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; **for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?** But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, **then are ye**

bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: **shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?** For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; **but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.** Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward **it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**”

James 1:2-4

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.** But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

1 Peter 1:6-7

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, **ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, **though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**”

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**”

Doctrinal Insight

Righteous government requires righteous rulers. God trains His sons through testing, discipline, endurance, obedience, and spiritual discernment. Those who will reign with Christ must learn to judge according to God, not according to flesh, fear, pride, or worldly wisdom.

XIII. Righteous Government Requires Servant Leadership, Not Gentile Dominion

Christ taught that His government does not operate like the oppressive rule of the Gentiles. Kingdom authority is exercised through humility, service, righteousness, and obedience to God.

Matthew 20:25-28

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them**, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: **but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister**; And whosoever will be chief among you, **let him be your servant**: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, **but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**”

Mark 10:42-45

“But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, **Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them**; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: **but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister**: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, **shall be servant of all**. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, **but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**”

Luke 22:25-30

“And he said unto them, **The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them**; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: **but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger**; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? **is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth**. Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, **as my Father hath appointed unto me**; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, **and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**”

Doctrinal Insight

Christ’s government is not tyranny, domination, pride, or self-exaltation. The future rulers of His kingdom are trained in humility, endurance, faithfulness, service, and sacrifice. Those who seek authority for self are unfit. Those who serve under Christ are prepared to rule with Christ.

XIV. The Church as a Present Embassy of Heavenly Government

The people of God are already citizens of heaven and ambassadors for Christ on earth. The church is called to manifest the government, laws, reconciliation, holiness, and authority of the kingdom **while still living in the present world.**

Philippians 3:20-21

“For our conversation is in heaven; **from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, **according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.**”

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

“And all things are of God, **who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

1 Peter 2:9

“But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

Colossians 3:1-4

“If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, **then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**”

Doctrinal Insight

The believer's true citizenship is heavenly. The church is a royal priesthood, holy nation, and ambassadorial body on earth. This means believers are not to conform to Satan's world system, but to represent the government of Christ while awaiting the full manifestation of His kingdom.

XV. The Final Removal of Satanic Government

Scripture teaches that Satan and his kingdom will be judged, cast down, bound, and finally destroyed.

Revelation 12:7-10

“And there was war in heaven: **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;** and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ:** for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

Revelation 20:1-3

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, **having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.** And he laid hold on the dragon, **that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan,** and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, **that he should deceive the nations no more,** till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

Revelation 20:10

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, **where the beast and the false prophet are,** and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; **when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.** For he must reign, **till he hath put all enemies under his feet.** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. **But when he saith all things are put under him,** it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, **then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him,** that God may be all in all.”

Doctrinal Insight

Satan’s government is temporary. Christ’s government is eternal. Every demonic principality, power, ruler of darkness, beast system, and false authority will be put down. The saints’ future reign must be understood in this context: Christ removes the usurpers and installs His righteous government.

XVI. Practical Application: How Should We Live If We Are Being Trained for Government?

If this life is a test and training ground for future rulership, then every act of obedience matters. Every trial matters. Every stewardship matters. Every judgment matters. Every compromise matters.

Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.** And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,** we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, **that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people,** zealous of good works.”

Micah 6:8

“He hath shewed 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?**”

1 Corinthians 4:2

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Revelation 22:12

“And, behold, I come quickly; and **my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**”

Practical Principles

1. Submit to God’s government before attempting to exercise authority.
2. Learn to judge according to Scripture, not according to flesh.

3. Resist Satan's world system and its counterfeit authority.
 4. Be faithful in small things, because small stewardship trains for greater rule.
 5. Accept chastening, testing, and suffering as preparation.
 6. Serve before ruling.
 7. Refuse pride, bribery, oppression, and self-exaltation.
 8. Remember that Christ alone is King of kings and Lord of lords.
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XVII. Summary and Conclusion

The Bible clearly reveals both heavenly and earthly government. God's throne is in heaven, His kingdom rules over all, and He is governor among the nations. Man was created for dominion under God, but sin opened the door for Satanic usurpation. The devil is called the prince of this world, the god of this world, and the deceiver of the whole world. Behind corrupt earthly government are principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Yet Satan's government is temporary. Christ has been given all power in heaven and earth. He is far above all principality, power, might, and dominion. The government is upon His shoulder. His kingdom shall have no end. The kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

Scripture strongly supports the premise that our life on earth is a test and training ground for future rule. The faithful servant receives authority over cities. The one faithful over a few things is made ruler over many things. Those who suffer with Christ shall reign with Him. The overcomer will sit with Christ in His throne. The saints shall judge the world and angels. The kingdom and dominion under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High.

Therefore, believers are not merely waiting to escape the earth. They are being prepared to govern under Christ in righteousness. The present battle is training. The present testing is preparation. The present stewardship is examination. The present suffering is refinement. The present spiritual warfare is preparation for restored dominion.

Romans 8:16-18

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, **that we are the children of God**: And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared **with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**"

Revelation 3:21

“To him that overcometh **will I grant to sit with me in my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Final Doctrinal Statement

The government of heaven is real. The government of earth was meant to reflect it. Satan has temporarily corrupted earthly government through deception, pride, idolatry, oppression, and spiritual wickedness in high places. But Christ has conquered, Christ is King, and Christ will put down all rule, authority, and power opposed to God. The saints are being tested and trained now so that, in Christ, they may judge righteously, reign faithfully, and take their appointed places in the restored government of God.