

## ~GOVERNMENT (283)

[Hebrew, *mem-sha-lah'*, Greek, *ar-khe'*]

.. World Governments

.. Christians And Governments

- The authoritative direction and restraint exercised over the actions of men in communities, societies, and states. Also, the person, body of persons, or the organizations constituting the governing authority.
- In the Christian Greek Scriptures forms of the Greek word *ar-khe'*, or **beginning** are variously translated principalities, governments, rulers, Sovereignities. **KJ, Dy, NW, AT, JB**
- *Ky-ber'ne-sis* and *ky-ri-o'tes*, rendered government in some translations, more correctly mean steering, guiding or directing, and lordship, respectively. In the Hebrew Scriptures, government is the English term sometimes used to translate *mem-sha-lah'*, dominion.
- And I will clothe him with your robe, and your sash I shall firmly bind about him, and your **dominion** I shall give into his hand, and he must become a father to the inhabitant of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (**Isaiah 22:21**)
- *Mis-rah'*, **dominion** or princely rule, or power.
- For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us, and the **princely rule** will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (**Isaiah 9:6**)
- The Bible reveals that there are invisible **governments** that are good, established by God.
- This was to the end that now to the **governments** and the authorities in the **heavenly places** there might be made known through the congregation the greatly diversified wisdom of God. (**Ephesians 3:10**)
- And those that are wicked, established by Satan and the demons.
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but

against the **governments**, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

- Jesus Christ was the active agent of God in originally setting up all righteous **governments** and authorities, invisible and visible.
- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)
- Because by means of him all other things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, **the things visible and the things invisible**, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or **governments** or authorities. All other things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)
- He has been placed by his Father Yehowah as head of all **government**.
- Look out! Perhaps there may be someone who will carry you off as his prey through the philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary things of the world and not according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)
- Because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily. (Colossians 2:9)
- And so you are possessed of a fullness by means of him, who is the head of all **government** and authority. (Colossians 2:10)
- And he must rule until all opposing **governments**, invisible and visible, are brought to nothing.
- Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all **government** and all authority and power. (1 Corinthians 15:24)
- The apostle Paul indicated that there was a system of things to come in which there would be a **government** under the authority of Christ.
- And what the surpassing greatness of his power is toward us believers. It is according to the operation of the mightiness of his strength. (Ephesians 1:19)

- With which he has operated in the case of the Christ when he raised him up from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 1:20**)
- Far above every **government** and authority and power and lordship and every name named, not only in this system of things, but also in that to come. (**Ephesians 1:21**)

## •• World Governments

- The Bible pictures world **governments** as **beasts** and says that they get their authority from the Dragon, Satan the Devil. God has permitted them to remain and has limited their scope and duration of rule, in harmony with his purpose. (**Daniel Chapters 7,8**)(**Revelation Chapters 13,17**)
- And you they will be driving away from men, and with the beasts of the field your dwelling will come to be, and the vegetation is what they will give even to you to eat just like bulls, and with the dew of the heavens you yourself will be getting wet, and seven times themselves will pass over you, until you know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind, and that to the one whom he wants to he gives it. (**Daniel 4:25**)
- And all the inhabitants of the earth are being considered as merely nothing, and he is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there exists no one that can check his hand or that can say to him, What have you been doing? (**Daniel 4:35**)
- Jesus answered him; You would have no authority at all against me unless it had been granted to you from above. This is why the man that handed me over to you has greater sin. (**John 19:11**)
- And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth, and he decreed the appointed times and the set limits of the dwelling of men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:26**)
- If, now, the Good News we declare is in fact veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing. (**2 Corinthians 4:3**)

- Among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious Good News about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through. (**2 Corinthians 4:4**)

**See Also BEASTS, SYMBOLIC**

## •• Christians And Governments

- Jesus Christ and the early Christians did nothing to interfere with human **governments** of their day.
- Therefore Jesus, knowing they were about to come and seize him to make him king, withdrew again into the mountain all alone. (**John 6:15**)
- They are **no part of the world**, just as I am no part of the world. (**John 17:16**)
- Jesus answered; **My kingdom is no part of this world**. If my kingdom were part of this world, my attendants would have fought that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is, my kingdom is not from this source. (**John 18:36**)
- The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this. To look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world. (**James 1:27**)
- Adulteresses, do you not know that the **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God. (**James 4:4**)
- They recognized the fact that some form of **government** is necessary for the existence of society, and they never fomented revolution or civil disobedience.
- Let **every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities**, for there is no authority except by God, the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. (**Romans 13:1**)
- Therefore **he who opposes the authority has taken a stand against the arrangement of God**, those who have taken a stand against it will receive judgment to themselves. (**Romans 13:2**)

- For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it. (**Romans 13:3**)
- For **it is God's minister to you for your good**. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear: for it is not without purpose that it bears the sword, for it is God's minister, an avenger to express wrath upon the one practicing what is bad. (**Romans 13:4**)
- There is therefore compelling reason for you people to be in subjection, not only on account of that wrath but also on account of your conscience. (**Romans 13:5**)
- For that is why you are also paying taxes, for **they are God's public servants** constantly serving this very purpose. (**Romans 13:6**)
- Render to all their dues, to him who calls for the tax, the tax. To him who calls for the tribute, the tribute. To him who calls for fear, such fear. To him who calls for honor, such honor. (**Romans 13:7**)
- Continue reminding them to be in subjection and be obedient to **governments** and authorities as rulers, to be ready for every good work. (**Titus 3:1**)
- Jesus set forth the guiding principle for true worshipers of God to follow when he said;
- They said; Caesar's. Then he said to them; Pay back, therefore, Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God. (**Matthew 22:21**)
- This principle enabled the early Christians, and Christians since then, to maintain a right balance as to relations with the two authorities, that of the **civil governments** and **that of God**.
- Jesus showed further that his position while on earth, and therefore that of his disciples, was not one of fighting against the Caesar governments but, rather, one of compliance with their regulations that did not conflict with God's Law. Pilate himself recognized this fact when he said;

- Pilate said to him; What is truth? And after saying this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them; I find no fault in him. (John 18:38)
- The apostles followed Jesus example.
- But in reply Peter and John said to them; Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. (Acts of Apostles 4:19)
- But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard. (Acts of Apostles 4:20)
- In answer Peter and the other apostles said; We must obey God as ruler rather than men. (Acts of Apostles 5:29)
- In this respect, indeed, I am exercising myself continually to have a consciousness of committing no offense against God and men. (Acts of Apostles 24:16)
- But Paul said; I am standing before the judgment seat of Caesar, where I ought to be judged. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also are finding out quite well. (Acts of Apostles 25:10)
- If, on the one hand, I am really a wrongdoer and have committed anything deserving of death, I do not beg off from dying. If, on the other hand, none of those things exists of which these men accuse me, no man can hand me over to them as a favor. I appeal to Caesar! (Acts of Apostles 25:11)
- Taking the stand, the accusers produced no charge of the wicked things I had supposed concerning him. (Acts of Apostles 25:18)
- They simply had certain disputes with him concerning their own worship of the deity and concerning a certain Jesus who was dead but who Paul kept asserting was alive. (Acts of Apostles 25:19)
- But I perceived he had committed nothing deserving of death. So when this man himself appealed to the August One, I decided to send him. (Acts of Apostles 25:25)
- But as they withdrew they began talking with one another, saying; This man practices nothing deserving death or bonds.

**(Acts of Apostles 26:31)**

- **Moreover, Agrippa said to Festus; This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar. (Acts of Apostles 26:32)**

**See Also KINGDOM**

**See Also SUPERIOR AUTHORITIES**