

## Outline

### Lesson 9 - The State: Whose Law?

#### I. Introduction – What is Politics?

Should politics be concerned with ethics & morals?

#### II. What is stealing?

Can the state steal?

- A. Story of Naboth's Vineyard – 1 Kings 21 – King Ahab committed murder and theft
- B. Story of Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4 – Why is the King eating grass like cattle?
- C. Scripture revealing God's sovereignty over kings

#### III. Design of the State - God, King (the civil authority), and citizens

A. Why did Israel ask for a King? – 1 Samuel 8 – corruption in civil government

#### B. Sphere Sovereignty



1. Story of Uzziah - 2 Chronicles 26 – The king entered the temple to burn incense, a seemingly "good thing" – God afflicted him with leprosy because he crossed a sphere boundary

2. Cowboy Movies – Churches did not sit on state soil, but on God's soil

C. Romans 13:1-6 – Submission and authority established by God

D. Delegation of Authority & Submission – Divine Attributes stamped on social order

1. Delegation – The Father delegated authority to Jesus; God delegated authority to the civil magistrate John 17:1-2 1Cor15:24,27,28

2. Subjection – The Son is subject to the Father; wives are subject to husbands; people are subject to their rulers 1Cor15:28  
Titus2&3 1Pet2:17

E. State Purpose – To punish evil and condone good – Law is based on ethics, so the civil authority must know the basis for calling something good or evil. Romans 13

#### IV. The Rise of the State

A. Death by the state – Because the state holds the power of the sword, it has the capacity to become tyrannical and commit extreme atrocities

DEATH BY THE STATE	
Joseph Stalin	42,672,000
Mao Zedong	37,828,000
Adolf Hitler	20,946,000
Chiang Kai-shek	10,214,000
Vladimir Lenin	4,017,000
Hideki Tojo	3,990,000
Pol Pot	2,397,000

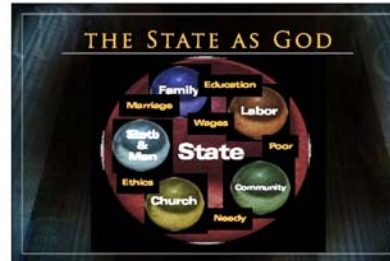
R. J. Rummel, "Death by Government"

DEATH BY THE STATE

"Almost 170 million men, women and children have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed or worked to death; buried alive, drowned, hung, bombed or killed in any other of a myriad of ways governments have inflicted death on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners."

R. J. Rummel, "Death by Government"

B. State seen as "savior" – Hegel: "the State is the march of God through the world..."



C. State begins to assume roles and responsibilities within the sphere of the family

D. "Go Before Us" – 1 Samuel 8:19-20 "with a king who will lead us and go out before us and fight our battles" Also see Exodus 32:1, Isaiah 52:12, and Isaiah 45:2

E. Decline of a culture – Social disorder in America is strikingly similar to that which marked the decline of Rome

Attributes that mark the decline of Rome

- Amounting love of show and luxury
- An obsession with sex including homosexuality
- Freakishness in the arts masquerading as originality
- Enthusiasms pretending to be creativity

V. Conclusion – "... but they have rejected Me as their king" 1 Samuel 8:7

## **K e y T e r m s**

### **Lesson 9 – The State: Whose Law?**

**Boundary questions:** Questions that address authority boundaries of particular social institutions. Examples: Can the state steal? Can the state murder? The story of Naboth's Vineyard is an example. 1 Kings 21 – King Ahab had Naboth killed in order to take Naboth's vineyard. In God's perspective, King Ahab overstepped his boundaries and committed murder and theft.

**Civil Magistrate:** The authority position of a nation or state.

**Delegation of Authority:** The formal grant of power, responsibility, and authority to someone else; this concept, like submission, is part of the triune nature of God. This grant is almost always carried out with a formal declaration (oath) and often with some mark of delegation (i.e. uniform).

**Pervasive:** To spread throughout, occupying a great area, permeate.

**Politics:** "The science of government; that part of ethics which consists in the regulation and government of a nation or state, for the preservation of its safety, peace, and prosperity; comprehending the defense of its existence and rights against foreign control or conquest ... and the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals." From Webster's 1828 dictionary.

**Rise of the State:** Because the state has the means to garner vast wealth and power, it can also begin to think that it has ultimate authority over every other social sphere. When this happens, the state will begin to see itself as God, with no boundaries and reject the idea of sphere sovereignty, bringing every other social sphere under its control.

**Roles of the King/Civil Magistrate:** God's servant to punish evil and condone good. Based on Romans 13.

**Sphere Sovereignty:** God has designed each social sphere for a particular purpose with unique laws, roles and responsibilities to fulfill that purpose. Therefore, a pastor has the position of authority in the sphere of the church, but does not have authority in the sphere of the State. This concept was originally developed by Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920). That sphere has been given a sovereign charge to fulfill that purpose that another sphere should not breach. An example of the "breach" is found in the story of Uzziah. 2 Chronicles 26 – King Uzziah assumed authority in the sphere of the church. The Lord struck him with leprosy because he had overstepped the boundaries of his authority.

**Subjection:** The bringing of a person or people under the control of another. Like submission and delegation, this is found within God's social design because it is found within the Godhead (i.e. Jesus "subjected to" the Father).