

How Should We Then Vote?

Series

Lesson #14

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How Should We Then Vote?

**Divine Institution #4:
Government**

The Foundations of Social Order

The Divine Institutions

Psa. 11:3, “*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*”

The Divine Institutions

1. Individual responsibility

PRE-FALL

2. Marriage

Designed to promote
productivity and advance
civilization

3. Family

4. Government, judicial

POST-FALL

5. Nations

6. Israel

Designed to restrain evil

What is a Divine Institution?

Absolute social structures instituted by God for the entire human race—believers and unbelievers alike.

Designed by God for the “perpetuation, preservation, protection, and prosperity of the human race.”

“the protection, conservation, fostering, and improvement of human life.” ~Martin Luther

A Divine Institution is not a social construct.

“There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence. I must confess that I do apprehend some danger. I fear that they may place too implicit a confidence in their public servants and fail properly to scrutinize their conduct; that in this way they may be made the dupes of designing men and become the instruments of their own undoing.”

~Daniel Webster, June 1, 1837

Government, The Fourth Divine Institution

Psa. 14:2, “The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

Psa. 14:3, “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. [These two verses are repeated in Psa. 53:2–3]

Rom. 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Gen. 9:5, “Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man.

Gen. 9:6, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”

Gen. 4:5, “but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Gen. 4:6, “So the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

Gen. 4:7, “ ‘If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’ ”

Gen. 4:13, “And Cain said to the LORD, ‘My punishment is greater than I can bear!

Gen. 4:14, “ ‘Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.’

Gen. 4:15, “And the LORD said to him, ‘Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.’ And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.”

Gen. 4:19, “Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.”

Gen. 4:23, “Then Lamech said to his wives: ‘Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me.

Gen. 4:24, “ ‘If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.’ ”

Gen. 6:1, “Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

Gen. 6:2, “that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.”

Gen. 6:3, “And the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’

Gen. 6:4, “There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”

Gen. 6:5, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen. 6:6, “And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Gen. 6:7, “So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ ”

**Gen. 6:8, “But Noah found grace in the eyes
of the LORD.”**

Gen. 9:5, “Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man.

Gen. 9:6, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”

Deut. 4:5, “Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

Deut. 4:6, “Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ”

**Prov. 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a reproach to any people.”**

**Prov. 16:12, “It is an abomination for kings to
commit wickedness,
For a throne is established by
righteousness.”**

Psa. 89:14,

**“Righteousness and justice are the
foundation of Your throne;
Mercy and truth go before Your face.”**

Psa. 11:7, “For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”

Psa. 33:5, “He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.”

Ex. 23:2, “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.”

Ex. 23:6, “You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.”

Lev. 19:15, “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”

Prov. 29:14, “The king who judges the poor with truth, his throne will be established forever.”

The problem of too little government:

Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judg. 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

The problem of too much government:

1 Sam. 8:11, “And he said, ‘This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.

1 Sam. 8:12, “He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

1 Sam. 8:13, “He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.”

1 Sam. 8:14, “And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

1 Sam. 8:15, “He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.

1 Sam. 8:16, “And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.”

1 Sam. 8:17, “He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.

1 Sam. 8:18, “And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”

Rom. 7:12, “Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”

Isa. 9:6, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa. 9:7, “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

Rev. 20:1, “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev. 20:2, “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Rev. 20:3, “and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

Rev. 20:7, “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

Rev. 20:8, “and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Rev. 20:9, “They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”

“Government, in my humble opinion, should be formed to secure and to enlarge the exercise of the natural rights of its members; and every government, which has not this in view, as its principal object, is not a government of the legitimate kind.”

~James Wilson, 1791