

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

Heb. 11:13-16: All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

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Rom. 13:1-7 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. 5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

4. Resist Evil

- i. Passages describing an individual/group disobeying government to obey God?
- j. Biblical catalog of Civil Disobedience:
 - 2j. Ex. 1:15-22
 - 3j. Josh. 2:1-21
 - 4j. Judges 6:25-32
 - 5j. 1 Sam. 14:24-45
 - 6j. 1 Kings. 11:26-12:24

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k. While government is given as an instrument of God to mitigate the effects of the fall, in what ways can government actually compound and aggravate the effects of the fall?

1k. Make materials necessary to life harder to obtain through shortages or fatigue

2k. Promote human estrangement and division

3k. Codify injustice

4k. Is. 3:1-4

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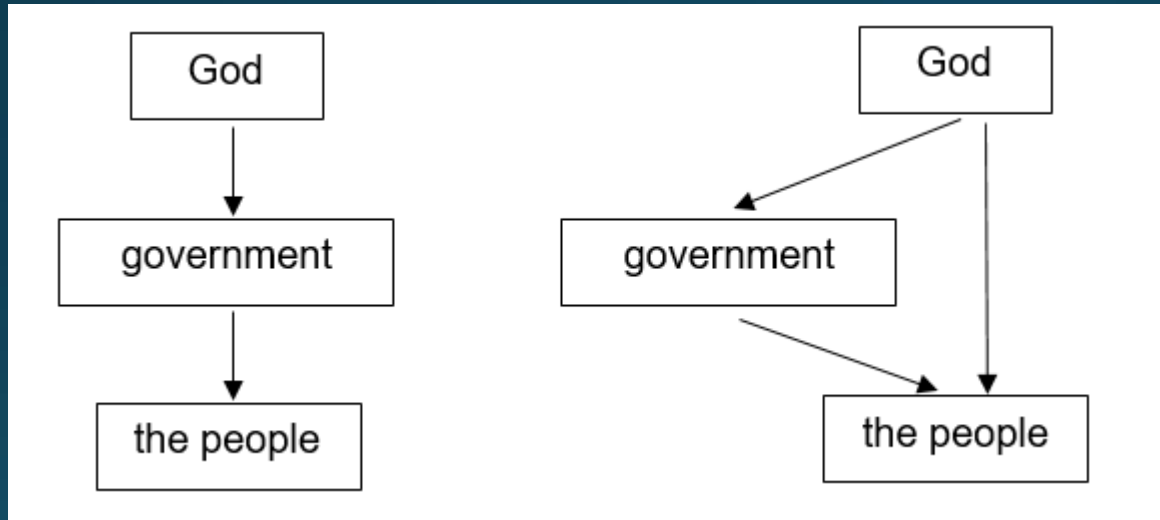
- I. Apart from corruption, what are a/some practical shortcoming(s) of centralized government?
 - 1I. Further removes decision-making from the environment in which its effects are felt.
 - 2I. The governed are better positioned to gauge the impact of those decisions and offer correctives.
- m. Re-envisioning resistance:
 - 1m. Often focus on what resistance can do for the people (i.e., guarding their rights)—what can it do for government?
 - 2m. Can the willingness of the governed to disagree with and push back against the government help to save it from failing in its mission?

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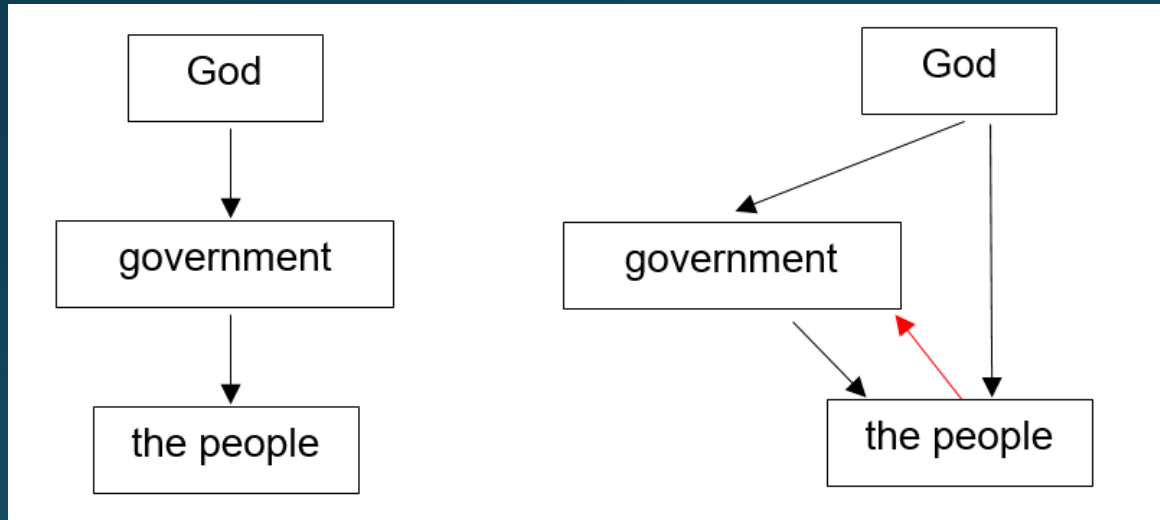
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