

RULER OF THE NATIONS

Part 1 of God & Government. 2 Chronicles 14-15.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 7, 2024.

NEW SERIES

We need to know three things about this teaching series.

- It's not about partisan politics.
- It's not about political candidates or issues.
- It IS about God and his blueprint for human government.

CAN GOD AND GOVERNMENT WORK TOGETHER?

There are different answers.

- Some say no! Christians should opt out.
- Others say no! Christians should park their religious beliefs at the door.
- Others say no! Christians should impose their views by any means.

SO ... HOW CAN GOD AND GOVERNMENT WORK TOGETHER?

We could act like Christians.

- The Bible teaches us to faithfully follow Jesus and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).
- We could influence people, culture, and government by winning friends and sharing the Gospel.
- Instead of scheming and screaming, we could lay down our lives and love like Jesus.

A MODEL FOR GOD AND GOVERNMENT

2 Chronicles 14 & 15 provide a helpful model for God and government.

- Judah's experience under King Asa might be a blueprint to follow.
- King Asa rose to power in 911 BC.
- Israel was in bad shape: spiritually, morally, and socially corrupt.
- Asa's reforms provide us with principles for God and government.

Principle One: Godly government should be a priority for any nation.

2 Chronicles 14:1-5 (CSB) Abijah rested with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David. His son Asa became king in his place. During his reign the land experienced peace for ten years. 2 Asa did what was good and right in the sight of the LORD his God. 3 He removed the pagan altars and the high places. He shattered their sacred pillars and chopped down their Asherah poles. 4 He told the people of Judah to seek the LORD God of their ancestors and to carry out the instruction and the commands. 5 He also removed the high places and the shrines from all the cities of Judah ...

- Verse 1: God gives "peace" to godly nations.
- Verse 2: Godly government honors God.
- Verses 3-5: Compromising godly values leads to collapse.

Principle Two: Godly government is transformational.

2 Chronicles 14:5-7 (CSB) ... and the kingdom experienced peace under him. 6 Because the land experienced peace, Asa built fortified cities in Judah. No one made war with him in those days because the LORD gave him rest. 7 So he said to the people of Judah, "Let's build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, with doors and bars. The land is still ours because we sought the LORD our God. We sought him and he gave us rest on every side." So they built and succeeded.

- End of verse 7: Godly government can facilitate spiritual renewal.
- Verses 5b, 6, 7: When a nation makes God central, he gives peace.

Principle Three: Christians have a role in godly government.

2 Chronicles 15:1-7 (CSB) The Spirit of God came on Azariah son of Oded. 2 So he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Asa and all Judah and Benjamin, hear me. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you abandon him, he will abandon you. 3 For many years Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without instruction, 4 but when they turned to the LORD God of Israel in their distress and sought him, he was found by them. 5 In those times there was no peace for those who went about their daily activities because the residents of the lands had many conflicts. 6 Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every possible distress. 7 But as for you, be strong; don’t give up, for your work has a reward.”

- Verses 1-2: Speak for God if called to speak.
- Verse 3: We need Bible preaching and teaching.

MAYBE WE GOT GOD AND GOVERNMENT WRONG

Arguments don’t win people to faith in Jesus.

- My philosophy students told me...
- If we want a godly government leading a godly nation, then we must live according to the teachings of our gentle, loving, truth-telling, courageous, and self-sacrificing Savior.
- Share the Gospel and watch the culture change.

SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

READING

- This week, work through Chapter 1 of the Kingdom Politics study guide and/or Chapter 1 of the Kingdom Politics book.

GET STARTED

- My favorite spring time activities are ...

DIVE IN

- Review Peter's study guide. What were Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related God and government?
- Peter claimed that establishing a godly government should be a national priority. What do you think? How does Jeremiah 49 support Peter's view?
- Is it legitimate to ask a nation to submit to God and establish godly government? What do passages such as 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Ephesians 1:20-23; Revelation 11:15-18 add to the discussion.
- In your opinion, in what ways might a godly government (congress, courts, agencies, etc) change the American landscape?
- How will national spiritual awakening happen? Will it be by political activism or courageous Christians living faithfully and sharing the Gospel?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray for national spiritual awakening.
- Pray for the Cornerstone - people, leaders, health, and faithfulness.
- Pray for our families, communities, and nation.