

Genesis 10:8-12 & Genesis 11:1-9 (Part 2 of 2)
Early Biblical Lessons On Human Government

- Recap: God invented the idea of separate and sovereign nations in this passage
- Why is the issue of human government important for us to study in a church setting?
 - Our God established the institution of human government and set the boundaries for it. As His people, we should understand what He thinks government should (and should not) be
 - He established human government through 3 steps of revelation:
 - Genesis 9:6 (capital punishment for murderers)
 - Genesis 11:9 (many separate and sovereign governments)
 - The Law of Moses, which was a national blueprint for government
 - It is a foundational issue for humanity, and we are leaving the early foundational era of Genesis
- Government was established to protect and honor the image of God in humanity (Genesis 9:6)
 - Prior to the Flood, there was anarchy (no government). In less than 1700 years the image of God was essentially erased from humanity (Genesis 6:5), so God hit the reset button on planet Earth. He then instituted the idea of very limited government in Genesis 9:6
 - God promised to never again destroy humanity as He had just done (Genesis 9:11,15)
 - This meant that He had to keep His image in humanity from being lost
 - When He intervened so drastically in Genesis 11 by confusing human language, He was therefore acting to ensure the survival and stability of His image in humanity
 - This means that the type of government represented by Nimrod would eventually have the same effect upon the image of God as did anarchy
 - Nimrod had a one-world, centralized, totalitarian government
 - Here, all human freedom is lost, for everyone becomes a drone in service to the collective (the state), much like bees in a hive
- Spectrum of government: from anarchy to totalitarianism
 - Under anarchy, life is cheap and dignity is obliterated (see Judges 21:25)
 - God forcefully ended anarchy
 - Under totalitarianism (slavery to the state), freedom is lost and dignity is obliterated (see Exodus 2:23)
 - God forcefully ended totalitarianism
 - There is a balance somewhere in between these two extremes
 - Should be closer to anarchy than to totalitarianism
 - God let us exist under anarchy (complete human freedom) first, even with the sinful human nature
 - God instituted very limited government in Genesis 9:6
 - Even Israel existed first in very-near anarchy (as Judges 21:25 showed us) prior to the monarchy
- Why closer to anarchy? Because limiting human freedom needs to be limited
 - Government essentially equals “human limit-ment” or “freedom lost”
 - Freedom is an important element in the image of God
 - Only God has the right (and the wisdom) to dictate how much of human freedom should be limited
- Of what does the idea of human government exist?
 - The *why* of government: Honoring & protecting the image of God (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:2)
 - The *what* of government: The duties assigned to it by God
 - The *how* of government: The mechanisms by which the *what* of government is carried out
- How did this look after Genesis 9:6?
 - The *why*: Fostered a reverence for the idea of human life not present before the Flood

- The *what*: Capital punishment for murderers
- The *how*: Not specifically given, but would have included law enforcement and the legal system
 - Needed to:
 - Ascertain that a murder has been committed
 - Investigate the murder
 - Identify and detain a suspect
 - Hold a fair trial
 - Free the suspect if found not guilty, or execute if found guilty
- How did this look after Genesis 11:9?
 - To the *what* of government would have been added the necessities of maintaining a national language and secure borders
 - To the *how* of government would have been added a strong military and the potential (eventual) necessity of a national language institute (although this would for a long time naturally police itself)
- What is a separate and sovereign nation supposed to look like?
 - We can fast forward to take a look at the established nation of Israel
 - It had very distinct borders, which were set by God (Numbers 34:1-12)
 - If we have an issue with borders, we have an issue with God
 - Languages were the original borders
 - Behind these borders Israel had:
 - A distinct language, which was Hebrew (Genesis 42:23; 2 Kings 18:26)
 - A distinct law, which was the Law of Moses
 - A distinct culture, which was worship of Jehovah
 - These borders were sacred, and the only people allowed to be assimilated were those who were converts to a nation's language, law and culture
 - Ruth the Moabitess is the most wonderful example of this national conversion (Ruth 1:16,17)
 - Uriah the Hittite is probably another example (2 Samuel 11:6-11)
- What people get which land?
 - A people may call a land their own when:
 - They occupy it, and
 - Can hold it by strength
 - Israel was the only people given a title deed to any portion of Earth by God
 - Even they were (and are) subject to the above realities
 - There is no "finders, keepers" rule in existence
 - Israel was not the first into the Promised Land
 - If you want to hold your land, be strong (Deuteronomy 28:1-12)
 - To be strong, be a good people
 - To be a good people, be a truly moral people
 - To be a truly moral people, be a people who love God and obey His word
- How should a nation react when it gets everything right (1 Kings 10:24)?
 - More people than it can handle will want to make that nation their home (immigrate)
 - A nation cannot (nor should not) import the entire world
 - The idea of borders still needs to remain sacred
 - Export your formula!
 - Solomon and the Queen of Sheba are a great example
 - 1 Kings 10:1-10,13