

## Biblical Sources of Government

We sometimes talk about biblical principles that our country was founded upon. That's a bold statement to some people. There are people who have discounted the religious aspect of our founding and framing. Yet it is there.

Historians have dissected thousands of the writings of our early history. They found that the number one source in those writings was the Bible. Many of the other sources cited can also find a biblical basis in them.

Knowing that government is one of the institutions of God, our Founders and Framers used scripture to establish our Republic. Paul wrote of government in **Romans 13:1 (ESV)**:

**Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.**

In another lesson we will talk about the level of submission that God expects to government. Today simply notice that government, like the family and the church, is ordained of God. We have no qualms about preaching sermons on the church or on families, but what happened to preaching about *God's* institution of government?

Please remember that while we use some democratic principles, we are not a pure democracy, we are a republic. That was done on purpose by our forefathers. A democracy just needs a 51% vote to take it in any direction. A republic has a representative government that requires other approaches.

Let's look at a very few passages that show us the basis for certain aspects of our government.

- Separation of Powers – Our Founders knew the corrupt nature of man. So, they built into our governmental system ways to maintain accountability. We see our need for checks and balances from passages like **Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)**

**<sup>9</sup>The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?**

Our Founders developed a system that would help keep tyranny in check. They did not want to create a new monarchy with all of the real power resting in one person who could become (and likely would become) corrupt.

Notice that the LORD has all power and our government would be subdivided under His activities. **Isaiah 33:22 (ESV)**:

**<sup>22</sup>For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver;  
the LORD is our king; he will save us.**

- Tax Exemptions – **Ezra 7:24 (ESV)**:

**<sup>24</sup>We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.**

Churches enjoy tax exempt status that came before there ever was such a thing as a 501 (C) (3).

- Republican form of Government from **Article IV Section 4 of the Constitution** which reads:  
**“The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.”**

This is based on Jethro’s advice to Moses in **Exodus 18:21 (ESV)**:

**<sup>21</sup>Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.**

As a result, our Founders developed a representative form of government called, a Republic, not a democracy.

- **Article III Section 3** – **“Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.”**

The Biblical basis for this provision comes from **Deuteronomy 17:6 (ESV)**:

**<sup>6</sup>On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.**

**Ezekiel 18:20 (ESV)** adds another important part to capital punishment. The one who commits such a crime deserves death, not those of his family too. **It reads:**

**<sup>20</sup>The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.**

There are many other examples but you can see the foundation that our forefathers used was to establish our national government the Bible. They had a biblical worldview. God ruled over all in their lives.

Keep the Light of God’s Rule Burning!