

# **Lesson 9 Outline - The State: Whose Law?**

- I. **Introduction – What is Politics? Should politics be concerned with ethics & morals?**
- II. **What is stealing? Can the state steal?**
  - A. Story of Naboth's Vineyard – 1 Kings 21 – King Ahab committed murder and theft
  - B. Story of Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4 – Why is the King eating grass like cattle?
  - C. Scripture revealing God's sovereignty over kings
- III. **Design of the State - God, King (the civil authority), and citizens**
  - A. Why did Israel ask for a King? – 1 Samuel 8 – corruption in civil government
  - B. Sphere Sovereignty
    - 1. Story of Uzziah - 2 Chronicles 26 – The king entered the temple to burn incense, a seemingly "good thing" – God afflicted him with leprosy because he crossed a sphere boundary
    - 2. Cowboy Movies – Churches did not sit on state soil, but on God's soil
  - C. Romans 13:1-6 – Submission and authority established by God
  - D. Delegation of Authority & Submission – Divine Attributes stamped on social order
    - 1. Delegation – The Father delegated authority to Jesus; God delegated authority to the civil magistrate
    - 2. Subjection – The Son is subject to the Father; wives are subject to husbands; people are subject to their rulers
  - E. State Purpose – To punish evil and condone good – Law is based on ethics
- IV. **The Rise of the State**
  - A. Death by the state – Because the state holds the power of the sword, it has the capacity to become tyrannical and commit extreme atrocities
  - B. State seen as "savior" – Hegel: "the State is the march of God through the world ... "
  - C. State begins to assume roles and responsibilities within the sphere of the family
  - D. "Go Before Us" – 1 Samuel 8:19-20 "with a king who will lead us and go out before us and fight our battles" Also see Exodus 32:1, Isaiah 52:12, and Isaiah 45:2
  - E. Decline of a culture – Social disorder in America is strikingly similar to that which marked the decline of Rome
- V. **Conclusion – "... but they have rejected Me as their king" 1 Samuel 8:7**