

Who Needs Government?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 9:1-17.

B. This text unveils the Noahic government, which is the basis for all human government today.

C. Covenants are rules of the game God determines in which no men can break--they can only illustrate them as they illustrate the law of gravity.

II. The specific provisions that God enacted through the Noahic covenant.

A. God intended to preserve mankind through Noah.

B. God established nature as dependable.

1. He reserves the right to intervene however.

2. The reason for the biblical covenants is that man has become distorted and twisted by the invasion of evil.

3. Man at heart is not decent.

4. The whole point is to show that only God can save man.

C. Nature fears God because man is not what he once was.

1. The image of God is not what it once was.

2. Love has been replaced by fear.

D. Animal food has replaced plant food, which is designed to show us that our life comes from the death and life of Jesus.

E. God uses the covenant to teach us the sacredness of life--life will be required from whoever sheds the blood of man.

1. Life is God's property.

2. The blood is in the life, so blood is not to be eaten.

3. Man is not justified in getting revenge for a life taken, but this verse gives permission for government to take life as the instrument of God. (Romans 13)

4. However, even capital punishment is not intended to be a deterrent to crime alone.

5. God highly values human life.

6. Murder is avenged against the race, not merely the individual.

7. God wants us to know that violence inevitably breeds violence.

F. The covenant is for the population of the earth.

1. This is amazing given that man is evil.

2. This helps to accomplish God's purpose because in isolation man is much less prone to see his own problems.

G. God guarantees that there will never again be a universal flood--God has changed His method of judgment.

H. God gives a sign of assurance as the final provision.

1. We must receive the message of God's grace pictured through the rainbow.

2. God loves us and is grieved by the distortion of humanity we see all around us.

Application questions:

1. What is a covenant? How would you summarize the Noahic Covenant?

2. How does this covenant demonstrate the sacredness of life and inform us as to the importance of Jesus' future sacrifice?

3. In what way does the rainbow picture grace? Why is grace so important for humanity to understand? Explain.
