As you have learned in this course, there are two spiritual kingdoms and each person alive is residing in one or the other. You are either a resident of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God. As long as you live on earth you will also live in a kingdom of the world. This means you will live in a nation which is controlled by a human government.

Human government was originally ordained by God to maintain proper organization and administer His laws on earth. God was to be the sovereign ruler over human government and it was to operate on the basis of His Word, plan, and purposes. It is evident in the world today that governments have not followed the original plan of God. They have become evil and oppressive. They do not operate on the principles of God. Many of these governments and their rulers do not even acknowledge the existence of God. Such governments have become "kingdoms of the world" controlled by Satan.

Because you must live under human government it is important for you to know what the Bible teaches regarding this subject:

**Kingdoms Of The World**

I. God originates governments
   A. Governments are ordained by God: Romans 13:1
   B. Rulers are God's ministers: Romans 13:4,6
   C. God sets up and takes down governments according to His will: Daniel 4:32; 5:21; Psalms 75:7

II. God's plan for government
   A. The original plan of God was for governments:
      1. To maintain and promote the good of the people: Romans 13:3,4
      2. To operate in righteousness and judge evil: Romans 13:3-4
   B. Governments opposed to His plan:
      1. Use authority unrighteously to fulfill selfish desires: I Kings 21:7-14
      2. In such cases, God finally brings judgment upon the ruler or rulers: I Kings 21:19

III. Responsibilities of government to the people
   A. Must not lead people into sin: I Kings 12:28-30
   B. Must promote the good of the people: Romans 13:1-5
C. Must judge evil: Romans 13:3-4

D. Must maintain internal peace: I Samuel 30:21-24

E. Must protect the rights of its citizens: Acts 22:25-30

IV. Principles governing rulers:

A. The ruler is to be wise: Genesis 41:33; Deuteronomy 1:13

B. The ruler is to protect and help the poor and needy: Romans 12:4; Psalms 82:3-4

C. The ruler is to acknowledge God as God: Psalms 2:10,11

D. Rulers who do not recognize God are brought down:
   1. Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4
   2. Belshazzar: Daniel 5

E. God may set a ruler who is obedient to Him in place of one who is not: I Kings 11:11

F. God may remove a family from a place of authority because of sin: I Kings 14:7-11

G. Because of one man's righteousness, God may allow him to maintain an heir or descendent on the throne: I Kings 11:13; Luke 1:32

V. Relation of people to the government

A. Rulers and laws are not to be resisted: Romans 13:2
   1. Submit for the Lord's sake: I Peter 2:13-14
   2. Despising government is a sin of the flesh: II Peter 2:10
   3. People must obey laws: Mark 12:17

B. There is an exception to such obedience: Commands of rulers are not to be obeyed when they are opposed to God's commands or purposes:
   1. Exodus 1:17
   2. Daniel 3:18
   3. Acts 5:29

C. People are to pay tribute to government: Romans 13:6-7; Matthew 17:25-27
D. God sometimes permits some freedom in choice of government: I Samuel 8:4-9

E. People must pray for rulers: I Timothy 2:1-2

VI. Human government is temporary. All governments will someday cease to exist: I Corinthians 15:24