Politics
Webster, 1828

"The science of government, that part of ethics which consists in the regulation and government of a nation or state, for the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity; comprehending the defense of its existence and rights against foreign control or conquest...and the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals."

Ethics vs Morals
What is stealing?
James & Heidi

Ethics vs Morals
Can the state steal?
1 Kings 21
Ahab, Jezebel, & Naboth

Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth."

1 Kings 21

But Ahab replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat. His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?"

1 Kings 21

He answered her, "Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, 'Sell me your vineyard, or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

1 Kings 21

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. In those letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

1 Kings 21

So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people. Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

1 Kings 21

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead." When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth's vineyard.

1 Kings 21
Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. Say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'"

1 Kings 21

Two hundred years later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Daniel 4:29-35

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

Who's really in control here?

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The Design of the State

God: Sovereign Over Kings

Proverbs 16:9-10 (NAS)  
"The mind of man plans his way,  
But the LORD directs his steps.  
A divine decision is in the lips of the king..."

Proverbs 21:1  
"The king's heart is in the hand of the  
LORD; he directs it like a watercourse  
wherever he pleases."

---

God: Sovereign Over Kings

Daniel 2:21  
"He changes times and seasons; he sets  
up kings and deposes them."

Romans 9:17  
"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh:  
'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I  
might display my power in you and that my  
name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

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Why Did Israel Ask for a King?

1 Samuel 8

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his  
sons as judges for Israel. The name of his  
firstborn was Joel and the name of his  
second was Abijah, and they served at  
Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his  
ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain  
and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

So all the elders of Israel gathered together  
and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to  
him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk  
in your ways, now appoint a king to lead us,  
such as all the other nations have."

1 Samuel 8
But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.”

1 Samuel 8

Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

1 Samuel 8

He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.”

1 Samuel 8

Is the King Sovereign Over Every Sphere?

Sphere Sovereignty

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But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. They confronted him and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God.”

2 Chronicles 26

Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD’s temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

2 Chronicles 26

King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house—leprosous, and excluded from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

The other events of Uzziah’s reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, “He had leprosy.”

2 Chronicles 26

Sphere Sovereignty

“Just trying to do something good”

2 Chronicles 26

Sphere Sovereignty

Cowboy Movies

(got a lot right)
Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong...

Romans 13:1-6

Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.

Romans 13:1-6
Focus on the Nature of God

delegation? submission?

Triune Delegation
After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son; that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.”

John 17:1-2

Triune Delegation
Then comes the end, when [Christ] delivers the kingdom to God the Father...For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

1 Corinthians 15:24 & 27 (ESV)

Triune Subjection
When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:28

“Subject” to...
Wives “subject” to their husbands
Bondslaves “subject” to their masters
People “subject” to their rulers

Titus 2 & 3 (NASB)
Christian Duties to the Civil Magistrate

pay taxes, pay respect, give honor

Romans 13:7
...fear God, honor the king.
1 Peter 2:17

The State

Romans 13

Delegation of Authority
Submission
Purpose

The State

Romans 13

purpose of the Civil Authority?

1. Punish evil
2. Condone good

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21

The State

Romans 13

purpose of the Civil Authority?

1. Punish evil
2. Condone good

The Civil Authority must know the basis for calling something good or evil.


Rise of the State

if man is good, why is there evil?

“...experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors.”

- Carl Rogers


“Sick people are made by a sick culture; healthy people are made possible by a healthy culture.”

- Abraham Maslow


Humanistic Psychology: Basic Assumptions

Man, by nature, is “good” and perfectible

Mental health can be obtained by getting in touch with one’s real ‘good’ self

Social institutions are responsible for man’s evil actions
cited in David Noebel, Understanding the Times

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**THE STATE AS GOD**


**HUMANIST MANIFESTO II**

“...No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”


**HEGEL’S GOD**

When a society rejects God, it will increasingly look for someone else to save them. That “savior” often becomes the “king”...

Hegel’s “March of God on the Earth”

**RISE OF THE GLOBAL STATE**

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We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached the turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community in which all sectors of the human family can participate. Thus we look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon transnational federal government.

from whence cometh our salvation? from God?...or the State?

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2

"...the State is the march of God through the world..."

Hegel

The Design of the State

why did the elders ask for exchange in the form of civil government? and what would the king do?

The Warning

"...warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

1 Samuel 8:9

and their response...?
Refusing the Warning

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

1 Samuel 8:19-20

Who will go before us?

“Come, make us gods who will go before us.”

Exodus 32:1

“They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us.’”

Acts 7:40

Who will go before us?

“...the Lord will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard.”

Isaiah 52:12

“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud...”

Exodus 13:21

“And by night in a pillar of fire...”
Social Disorder & the Decline of a Culture

Five attributes marked Rome at its end:

- a mounting love of show and luxury
- an obsession with sex, including homosexuality

Social Disorder & the Decline of a Culture

freakishness in the arts, masquerading as originality, and enthusiasts pretending to be creativity

an increased desire to live off the state

Edward Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire


who are we really rejecting?

God said to Samuel:

“...it is not you they have rejected, Samuel, but they have rejected me as their king.”

1 Samuel 8:7


