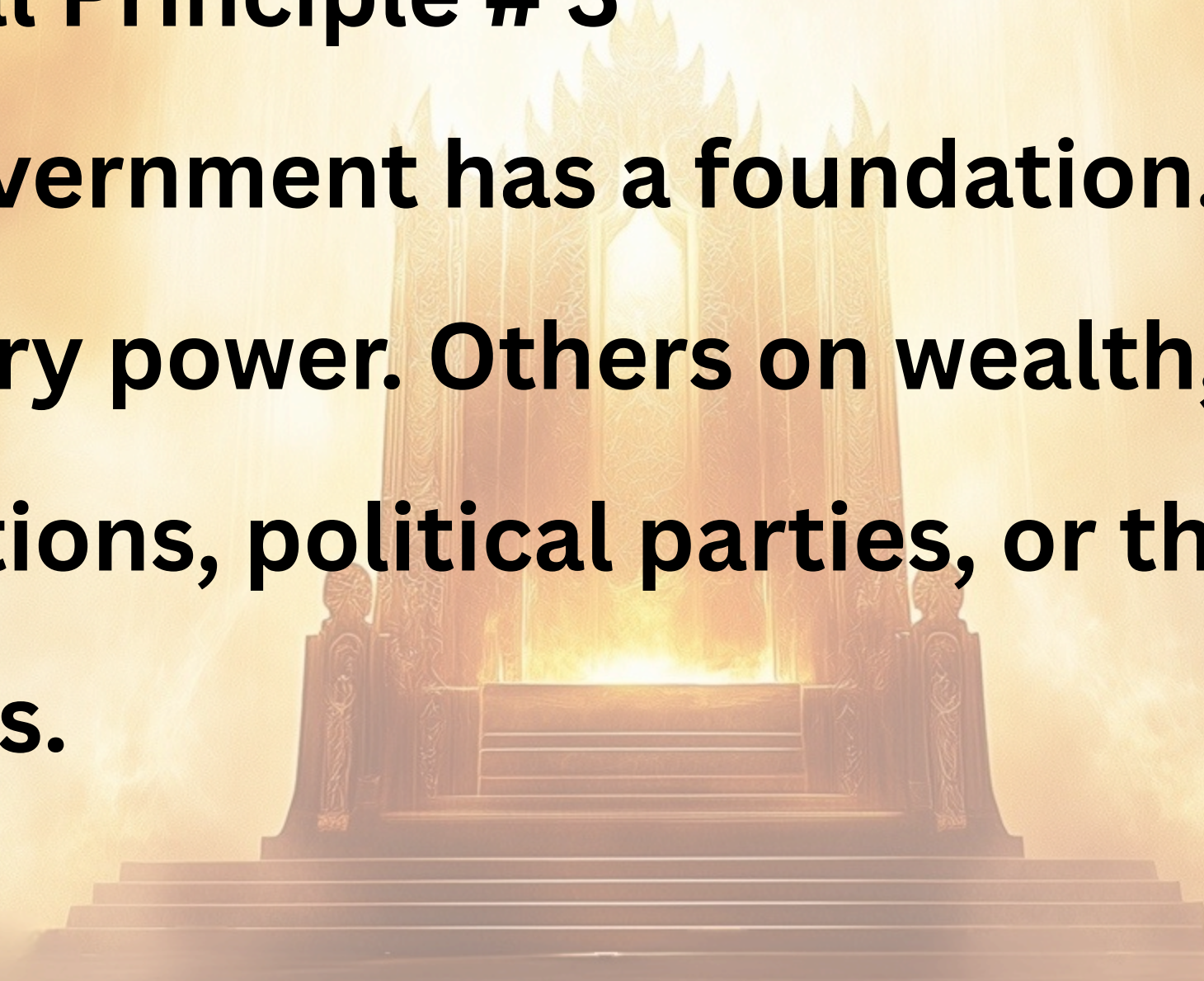


The Government of God
SERIES

God's Government

- **Foundational Principle # 3**
 - **Every government has a foundation. Some are built on military power. Others on wealth, public opinion, constitutions, political parties, or the personalities of leaders.**



God's Government

- **Every throne eventually reveals its foundation.**
 - **Governments built on greed collapse.**
 - **Governments built on oppression eventually fall.**
 - **Governments built on lies eventually crumble.**
- **Jesus taught the same principle in Matthew 7:24-27.**
 - **A house built on sand cannot stand.**
 - **A house built on rock remains. The same is true of governments.**

God's Government

- God's government is different than human government.
 - God's government is built on righteousness and justice.
 - Because God's throne is founded upon righteousness, His Kingdom cannot be shaken.
 - Hebrews 12:28 (NIV) – *"We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken."*

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God's Government

- Unlike earthly governments that often rely on power or popularity, God's government rests upon His character.
 - Psalm 89:14 – *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.*
- The foundation of every government determines the quality of its rule.

God's Government

- Righteousness speaks to God's character.
 - The Hebrew word for righteousness (*tsedakah*) carries the idea of what is right, upright, morally perfect, and in complete conformity with God's own nature.

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God's Government

- God doesn't determine what is right by consulting another standard. He is the standard.
 - Everything He says...
 - Everything He commands...
 - Everything He does...flows from His perfect holiness.

God's Government

- Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV) – *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil.*
 - God never has mixed motives.
 - He never manipulates.
 - He never lies.
 - He never compromises truth for convenience.
 - Every decision He makes perfectly reflects His holy nature.

God's Government

- God's government is never influenced by public opinion.
 - Earthly governments change constantly.
 - Approval ratings rise and fall.
 - Policies change with elections.
 - Truth becomes negotiable.

God's Government

- God never governs by opinion polls.
 - Malachi 3:6 (ESV) – *"For I the LORD do not change."*
- Hebrews 13:8 (ESV) – *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
 - God never adjusts His righteousness to fit culture.
Culture must adjust to Him.

God's Government

- **Key Takeaway: Every decision God makes is perfectly righteous and perfectly just because God is perfectly righteous and perfectly just.**



God's Government

- Foundational Principle # 4
 - God's Word is His constitution
- God governs according to His unchanging Word.
 - Psalm 119 repeatedly declares that God's statutes, commands, and judgments reveal His government. While the psalmist does not use the phrase "government of God," he consistently portrays God's rule being exercised through His Word.

God's Government

- God's statutes establish the standard for righteous living.
 - Psalm 119:4 (NKJV) – *You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently.*
 - Psalm 119:12 (NKJV) – *Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes.*

God's Government

- Psalm 119:33-35 (NKJV) – *Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.*
 - *God's government is instructional before it is judicial. He doesn't merely punish wrongdoing; He teaches His people how to live in righteousness.*

God's Government

- God's commandments produce freedom, blessing, and stability.
 - A recurring theme in Psalm 119 is that obedience is not portrayed as bondage but as the path to freedom.
- Psalm 119:45 (NKJV) – *And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.*

God's Government

- Psalm 119:165 (NKJV) – *Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.*
 - The psalmist repeatedly links God's commands with freedom, peace, wisdom, joy, confidence, and stability.
 - This reflects a central principle of God's Kingdom: true freedom is found not in autonomy, but in living under God's righteous rule.

God's Government

- God's judgments reveal His justice and righteous rule.
 - Psalm 119:7 (NKJV) – *I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments.*
 - Psalm 119:62 (NKJV) – *At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments.*

God's Government

- Psalm 119:75 (NKJV) – *I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.*
- Psalm 119:137 (NKJV) – *Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright are your judgments.*

God's Government

- The Hebrew word often translated "judgments" or "ordinances" (*mishpatim*) refers to God's judicial decisions—His righteous standards for justice.
- The root word is *mishpat*, which is defined as “a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree, including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty.”

God's Government

- *Mishpat* refers to God's judgments, decisions, and judicial rulings.
 - Earthly governments often struggle with corruption or inconsistency, but here we see that God's judgments are always perfectly righteous because they flow from His holy nature.

God's Government

- If righteousness describes who God is, justice describes how He governs.
- The Hebrew word *mishpat* (translated justice) means:
 - God always gives what is right.
 - God never shows partiality.
 - God never accepts bribes.
 - God never favors the wealthy.
 - God never overlooks evil.
 - God never punishes the innocent.

God's Government

- Abraham asked: *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" (Genesis 18:25, ESV).*
 - The implied answer is: Absolutely.
- God's justice is perfect.
 - God's government administers perfect justice because the Judge is perfectly righteous.

God's Government

- God never has to choose between being righteous and being loving. He never has to choose between justice and mercy.
 - Because He is perfectly holy, every decision He makes is perfectly righteous.
 - Because He is perfectly just, every decision He makes is perfectly fair.
 - Because He is perfectly loving, every decision He makes seeks His glory and the ultimate good of His redeemed people.

God's Government

- The stability of God's Kingdom is not found in the strength of His armies or the size of His resources—it is found in the perfection of His character.
 - Earthly kingdoms rise and fall because human character is flawed.
 - God's Kingdom is unshakable because His throne rests on righteousness and justice, and every act of His government is carried out in steadfast love and faithfulness.
 - That is why we can trust Him completely: the King who rules the universe will never make a wrong decision.

God's Government

- What is the difference between righteousness and justice?
 - Many people emphasize one while neglecting the other. Some want righteousness without justice. Others want justice without righteousness.
 - God never separates them. His righteousness determines what is right. His justice ensures what is right is carried out.

God's Government

- Righteousness is the standard.
- Justice is the application of that standard.
- One defines.
- The other administers.



God's Government

- Jesus perfectly embodied righteousness and justice.
 - Everything Psalm 89 describes finds its fullest expression in Christ.
 - Isaiah 11:4 (NKJV) – With righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.
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God's Government

- Jesus never rendered an unjust verdict.
- He welcomed sinners without affirming sin.
- He confronted hypocrisy without abandoning compassion.
- He overturned corruption in the temple.
- He defended the vulnerable.
- He fulfilled the Law perfectly.
- He satisfied divine justice at the cross.

God's Government

- King Jesus now reigns in righteousness at the right hand of the Father.
- His life fully revealed the character of His Kingdom
 - Key Takeaway: God's laws are not burdensome but are expressions of His nature and wisdom. God's government is not oppressive, but brings liberty, peace, and flourishing to those who willingly submit to His authority.