

Romans 13 and First Peter 2

Must we give allegiance to earthly governments?

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New Testament verses from a **Tanakh** perspective.

We often encounter people who, like ourselves, were taught from their youth on up that secular government authority exists by the will of **YHWH**, and that **He** sets all rulers in their places, so we must *honor and obey* earthly rulers for **YHWH's** sake. This is *supposedly* derived out of **Romans 13** and **First Peter 2:13**.

When one begins with the point of view that the Creator's work was *good* at the end of the sixth day of creation, and that He had pronounced His eternal law at that point, then we can see why all through the **Tanakh** (Old Testament) there is perfect harmony in the scriptures. We can also see that **there is nothing new under the sun, for that which was, shall be, and that is, has happened before.**

The Christian bible colleges teach that **Romans 13** is properly interpreted as meaning that **all secular** governments are ordained by **YHWH**, and given to us for our protection. Is this true? Is there Old Testament support for this interpretation? Secular governments began with **Nimrod**, at Babylon. **YHWH** cursed and dispersed that entire society. Quite obviously, then the Nimrod government was *not* given by **YHWH**, therefore, that kind of government is *not to be obeyed*.

The next time that **YHWH's** people (**am_YHWH**) set up their own government is found in First Samuel chapter eight, where in verse eighteen, we were told that "*And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.*"[NKJV]. When you view the entire chapter of **I Samuel 8** in context, it is simply not possible to make the case that **YHWH chose this form of government for us**, or having this government be anything other than our own lack of obedience that inflicted these earthly kingdoms upon us. Nimrod and First Samuel, therefore, tell us that **YHWH did not** give us our earthly kings. Let's keep looking, because if this is something that is important, it should be in the bible at least three times. Only once is enough, but usually, we can find things three times.

We read in **Hosea 8:4**, "*They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I [YHWH] knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.*" OK, that pretty well settles it. **YHWH** did not authorize secular authority to rule over **His** people.

Now, let's look at **Romans 12 & 13**.....

Romans 12: (KJV)

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy** [*Qodesh: set apart*], **acceptable unto God** [*anything else is unacceptable*], which is your reasonable service.
2. And **be not conformed to this world** [*obey the law of the land? Nope.*]: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, **will of God**.

3. For I say, through the grace [*empowerment*] given unto me, to every man that is among you [**even the politicians?**], not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
4. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
5. So we, **being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.**
6. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;
7. Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching;
8. Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
9. *Let* love be without dissimulation [*partisan politics?*]. **Abhor that which is evil** [*earthly government?*]; cleave to that which is good [*Torah*].
10. *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
11. **Not slothful in business**; fervent in spirit; **serving the Lord**; [*WHAT!?!?!? Not the earthly govt.?*]
12. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
13. Distributing to the necessity of saints [*taxes don't go to the saints, do that?*]; given to hospitality.
14. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
15. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
16. *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things [*bankers and politicians?*], but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
17. **Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**
18. If **it** be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. [*When man's law does not conflict with God's Law, seek to live in peace by not exceeding the speed limit.*]
19. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.** [*Protests and wars do not accomplish the goals we seek.*]
20. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
21. **Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

KJV Romans 13:

1. Let **every** soul be subject unto **the** higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the **powers that be** are ordained of God. [*If it isn't from YHWH, then it is not a power that we need to recognize.*]
2. Whosoever therefore **resisteth the power**, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. [*When earthly rulers act contrary to YHWH's Law, they are resisting the power, are they not?*]
3. For [*righteous, Torah-obedient*] rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:
4. For he [*the righteous, Torah-obedient*] is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he [*the righteous, Torah-obedient*] is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. [*if referring to earthly government, this is purely for political control, inserted at Nicea for controlling the Roman world.*]

5. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.
6. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. [*don't forget to contribute your taxes.*]
7. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. [*When earthly rulers are not honorable, we are under no biblical mandate to give them honor.*]
8. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. [This can be "**TOUGH LOVE**," because *King David, a man after God's own heart, said in Psalms 58:6 Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.*]
9. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, **it** is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.
11. And that, knowing the time, that now **it** is high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.
12. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.
13. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

To begin with, **Romans 12:1** says we are to present **our bodies** to be a living sacrifice to **YHWH**, not to our company commander, or congress, or the national flag. Because these verses are talking about our **BODY**, then any allegation that this has some mystical, higher, spiritual meaning that **does not** include our physical self, **must necessarily fail**. The next verse, dealing with not being conformed to this world, certainly means that we are not to give great weight to **following the dictates of earthly statutes**. This is in complete conformity with the **Law of YHWH** as given in **Leviticus 18:3-5**.

3 After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, **shall ye not do:** and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, **shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.** **4** Ye shall **do my judgments,** and **keep mine ordinances,** to walk therein: I am the **YHWH** your Elohim. **5** Ye shall therefore **keep my statutes,** and **my judgments:** which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am **YHWH**.

and the **obedient practice** of the Israelites in **Esther 3:8**

*And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and **their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws:** therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.*

Haman does **not** say that the Israelites are anti-social, or bad people, **just that they obey God rather than man**. This has support both in the Ten Commandments and in Acts 5:29.

Romans 12:3 obliterates any hierarchy among us. Although we do have different stations and jobs in our society, our different jobs do not grant us special powers or privileges. We are co-laborers with The **ONE** who redeems us.

Basic mathematics teaches us that:

When A equals B, and	A = B
When A does not equal C,	A ≠ C
Then B cannot equal C	B ≠ C

Therefore, **Romans 13:1** says that when *anyone* claiming authority or power that is not *righteous* or *observant of the Law of YHWH*, then *that one* is, in fact, ***NOT a lawful power or authority*** over us. This is VERY explicit, in that it says “Let ***EVERY*** soul be subject to the higher power.” This does not mean that the Citizens on the soil must be subject to **YHWH’s Law**, but the Aristocracy may do as they wish and still claim **YHWH’s** seal of approval on their right to rule over us. Unless those in secular authority are, *in reality*, subjecting themselves to ***The Higher Power (YHWH Elohim – The Eternal ONE)***, then those in secular authority are **not** in the “power pipeline” over us. How do we know if they are in conformity with the Law of YHWH? Go back and read **Romans 12** again, and use *this* as your plum-line for gauging rectitude of conduct of the Bushes, Cheneys, Clintons, Gores, Bidens, and Soetoros.

Going even further, **Romans 13:2** says that whosoever *resists* the power and Law of Elohim will receive damnation. The word “***whosoever***” would ***necessarily include*** the “***political leaders***” of a country, would it not? We saw an explanation of part of the Law of Elohim in **Romans 12**. When the ***leaders*** of a country ***openly resist*** the Law of **YHWH**, and the people follow the leaders, then ***the people will also receive unto themselves damnation.***

Romans 13:9 gives an abbreviated list of the ten commandments, at least those that explain how to break down the ***great commandment*** of “***Love your fellow man as yourself***” into its component parts. When the leaders of a country covet, steal, routinely lie in the name of “national security”, and send our boys and girls to foreign soil to steal the oil and resources of a foreign people, then we can be quite certain that we will also receive unto ourselves the damnation if we follow the secular leaders instead of following **YHWH**.

William F. Buckley, a political commentator, made the statement that “***Taxation is a form of eating, for politicians.***” Feeding a politician by paying him tribute is not going to make him go away. In fact, the more you feed him, the bigger he gets and the more he wants to eat. **Political power is like drug addiction.** Once someone becomes addicted or dependent upon opiate drugs, then the usual dose does not serve for very long. One of the signs of addiction is the need for an increased dose, or increased frequency of use. One cannot cure an addict by giving them drugs any more than one can cure a politician’s greed by paying taxes. When we really are on the side of RIGHT, then we will obey the Law of our Creator [not our **501(c)(3)** church] when it comes to either continuing to promote the evil, or cutting off evil in our land.

First Peter 2:13-14

In studying the history of the canonization of the books of the new testament, one finds a great deal of controversy about the origin, content, size, and history of the books attributed to **Peter**. Some of the surviving manuscripts attributed to Peter are only half the size of others, so it is quite obvious that there were many “judgment calls” and interpretations when it comes to the present-day content of the books attributed to Peter. With this amount of variation in the

manuscripts, then some of what we have today may be authentic, but much is probably a fabrication, regardless of how well-intentioned.

Believe it or not, there is a dependable test regarding accuracy of the New Testament! We know that the surviving texts of the Hebrew Torah (the five books of Moses) are rock-solid in their continuity and accuracy. The scrolls being produced today are exact reproductions of the scrolls that were used by Ezra, in the Tanakh. We can compare the teaching of any alleged text put forth as “New Testament,” and if it does not conform to the *Law of the Unchanging Creator* as written in the Torah, then the purported words are fake. If the compilers and interpreters were honest, then they would have used this test in their translations, and would not have made the obvious error in the book of First Peter, chapter 2, verse 13. For continuity’s sake, we will print verse 14, as well. These verses say: “**13. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14. Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.**” [emphases added] Now, read what this same man allegedly said in **Acts 5:29**.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: “*We ought to obey God rather than men.*”

How should we deal with these “Kings of the Earth”? Should we openly form our own government and go to war against them? Should we covertly form our own government and go to war with them?

One of the over-riding methods of interpreting and applying scripture is that when **YHWH** says that **WE** must do something, then we can wait forever for Him to do it for us, and it will never get done. He told us how the job would get done, and it would get done **when we do it**. In these cases, we can pray all we want, and our prayers have already been answered by His direction that we must do the job for ourselves. Yes, we may well receive divine assistance while *performing* the task, but we must actually do this task for ourselves.

At the same time, when **YHWH** says that **HE** will do something for us, then any attempt that we make to do the job for ourselves amounts to a **mockery** of **YHWH**, that we in our **arrogance** are **pretending** that we have the right, the power, and the ability to do what *only* **YHWH** can do for us.

How then, are we to deal with oppressive governments under which we find ourselves? What does Solomon say about this?

Proverbs 16:14 *The king’s wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man can appease it.*

Proverbs 20:2 *The terror of a king is like the roar of a lion; he who provokes his anger risks his life. 20:3 It is honorable for a man to desist from strife, but every fool becomes embroiled.*

I think that what Solomon is saying is that because discretion is the better part of valor, in order to preserve our lives and the lives of our families, we should **not provoke** those in power. Also, he is saying that it is honorable to seek peace and back away from situations that could escalate into a situation where someone could get hurt or their property could be damaged or forfeited. Also, he is saying that it is a foolish act caught up with plots and actions that would disturb the peace.

There are usually secular laws in place that will make it possible for us to obey **YHWH** and still not be in danger of being punished by secular governments. There are examples of this principle breaking down, at times, in the Tanakh, but generally, it was true. People were punished in Babylon for obeying **YHWH**, notably, the three Hebrew men who were thrown into the fiery furnace, and Daniel who was thrown into the den of lions. Because of obedience to the law of **YHWH**, their lives were preserved.

By contrasting this with the pronouncement of **YHWH** in **Leviticus 18:3-5** (*above*) and the practice of Israel when they were trying to be in obedience, as in **Esther 3:8** (*above*), we can see that *the ordinances of man are irrelevant*. By making the comparisons between what is purported to be the writing of the Apostle Peter in **First Peter 2:13**, we can easily see that what is being taught in American churches is absolutely **NOT** in conformity with either Leviticus or Esther, therefore, one or the other is in error, and the incorrect teaching should not be depended upon for regulating one's personal conduct.

If one wishes to criticize the point of view being presented herein, claiming that one must obey earthly government *until and unless the earthly government is in conflict with the Law of YHWH*, then how are the churches going to deal with the word "**every**", in verse **13**? *All* means "**ALL**", and *every* means "**EVERY**". To me, it seems that if one is going to take **First Peter 2:13 as it is taught in Christian churches**, then one must either believe that one should enthusiastically **submit to** and **support** abortion, assassinations, and wars, **wholeheartedly, with their own bodies**, or they would be in violation of their own church doctrine.

So, when earthly, secular governments are not given to us by **YHWH**, and we are not to support them, then what government are we to support? Check out **Isaiah 33:22**, - "For **יהוה** is our Judge, for **יהוה** is our Lawgiver, for **יהוה** is our King; He will save us." His government provides all of the peace, justice, mercy, stability, and salvation that we need. This, then, is **OUR** government, - *the government that He created*.

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יהוה

The name of our Creator is made up of four, Hebrew vowels, Y H W H יהוה. Vowels are sounds, not just marks on paper. (source: **Flavius Josephus - Antiquities of the Jews**)

The letter ה (h) when used as a vowel, usually has the "ah," "ha," or the "huh" sound. The ה is the *definite* article, or *THE, SPECIFIC, to the EXCLUSION of ALL others*.

This is exemplified in showing the difference between the word "eretz," meaning land, and the words "ha Eretz," meaning *THE Land of Israel, to the exclusion of all others*.

In Hebrew, the letters י (y) and ו (v)(w) are used interchangeably, and when located in the first, second, or third position in a word, indicate the tense of the word, either past, future, or continuing.

Being placed in the first and third positions, the י and ו indicate that the name is **both past and future**, or, - *Eternal*.

The ה associated with **both** the י and the ו means that the name is specifically, to the exclusion of all others, both *past* and *future*, or **THE Eternal**.

Furthermore, being *singular*, and *being found twice*, the ה would also allow the addition of the word, **ONE**, as a descriptor.

The Name, **YHWH**, could then be logically rendered as **The Eternal ONE**, because **He** has eternal existence, **to the exclusion of all others**.

It is pronounced in one, long breath, like the wind, with the accent on the middle syllable. .

eeeeeaaaaaa UUUUUU' waaaah