

Message Two

The Governmental Administration of the Righteous, Holy, Faithful, and Loving God

RS Hymns: 497, 21

Scripture Reading: Deut. 1:8-18; 16:18-20; 17:8-20; 19:15-21; 21:1-9, 18-23;
22:13-30; 24:1-4, 7, 16; 25:1-3, 5-16; 7:9-15

- Deut 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
- Deut 1:9 And I spoke to you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you alone.
- Deut 1:10 Jehovah your God has multiplied you, and now today you are as the stars of heaven in multitude.
- Deut 1:11 Jehovah, the God of your fathers, add to you a thousandfold ones like you and bless you as He has promised you!
- Deut 1:12 How can I alone bear the trouble and burden of you and your strife?
- Deut 1:13 Choose for yourselves men who are wise and prudent and well-attested, according to your tribes, and I will make them your leaders.
- Deut 1:14 And you answered me and said, The thing that you have said to do is good.
- Deut 1:15 So I took the leaders of your tribes, men who were wise and well-attested, and I made them leaders over you, captains over thousands and captains over hundreds and captains over fifties and captains over tens and officials for your tribes.
- Deut 1:16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the sojourner with him.
- Deut 1:17 You shall not respect persons in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear the face of man, for judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me; and I will hear it.
- Deut 1:18 And I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.
- Deut 16:18 You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your cities which Jehovah your God is giving you, according to your tribes; and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.
- Deut 16:19 You shall not distort justice; you shall not respect persons, nor shall you take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.
- Deut 16:20 Righteousness, and only righteousness, shall you pursue, in order that you may live and possess the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.
- Deut 17:8 If a case is too complicated for you to judge between one kind of homicide and another, or between one kind of civil suit and another, or between one kind of assault and another, being disputed cases within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which Jehovah your God will choose;
- Deut 17:9 And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is presiding in those days and investigate the matter; and they shall declare to you the sentence of judgment.
- Deut 17:10 And you shall do according to the word of the sentence that they declare to you from that place which Jehovah will choose; and you shall be certain to do according to all that they instruct you.
- Deut 17:11 You shall do according to the word of the instruction with which they instruct you and according to the judgment which they speak to you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left from the sentence that they declare to you.
- Deut 17:12 And the man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands to minister there before Jehovah your God, or to the judge, that man shall die. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from Israel.
- Deut 17:13 And all the people will hear and will fear, and they will not act presumptuously anymore.
- Deut 17:14 When you enter the land which Jehovah your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it, and you say, I will set a king over me like all the nations which surround me;
- Deut 17:15 You must set a king over you whom Jehovah your God will choose; from among your brothers you shall set a king over you; you may not put a foreigner, who is not your brother, over you.
- Deut 17:16 However, he shall not amass horses to himself, and he shall not turn the people back to Egypt so that he may amass horses, since Jehovah has said to you, You shall never again return that way.
- Deut 17:17 And he shall not amass wives to himself, so that his heart does not turn aside; nor shall he amass silver and gold to himself in great amounts.
- Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.
- Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to

Deut 17:20 fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them, So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.

Deut 19:15 One witness only shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin which he has committed; at the word of two witnesses or at the word of three witnesses shall a matter be established.

Deut 19:16 If a malicious witness rises up against a man to testify against him of wrongdoing,

Deut 19:17 The two men who have the dispute shall stand before Jehovah, before the priests and the judges who are serving in those days.

Deut 19:18 And the judges shall investigate thoroughly; and if indeed the witness is a false witness, if he has testified falsely against his brother,

Deut 19:19 You shall do to him as he intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.

Deut 19:20 And those who remain will hear and will fear and will never again do anything like this evil thing in your midst.

Deut 19:21 And your eye shall not pity: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot.

Deut 21:1 If a slain man is found lying in the field in the land which Jehovah your God is giving you to possess, it not being known who slew him,

Deut 21:2 Then your elders and judges shall go out and measure the distance to the cities that surround the slain man.

Deut 21:3 And the city that is nearest the slain man, that is, the elders of that city, shall take a heifer of the herd which has not been worked and has not drawn the yoke;

Deut 21:4 And the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a river valley that flows continually, which has not been plowed or sown, and break the neck of the heifer there in the river valley.

Deut 21:5 And the priests, the sons of Levi, shall draw near; for Jehovah your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of Jehovah, and by their word shall every dispute and every assault be settled.

Deut 21:6 And all the elders of that city that is nearest the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the river valley.

Deut 21:7 And they shall answer and say, Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it done.

Deut 21:8 Cover Your people Israel, whom You have ransomed, O Jehovah, and do not set the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of Your people Israel. And the guilt of the blood shall be covered from them.

Deut 21:9 Thus you shall utterly remove the guilt of the innocent blood from your midst, for you do what is right in the sight of Jehovah.

Deut 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, one who does not listen to the voice of his father nor to the voice of his mother; and though they chastise him, he does not listen to them;

Deut 21:19 Then his father and mother shall seize him and bring him forth to the elders of his city and to the gate of his place.

Deut 21:20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he does not listen to our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.

Deut 21:21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him with stones so that he dies. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear and will fear.

Deut 21:22 And if in a man there is a sin, a cause worthy of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree;

Deut 21:23 His corpse shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you must bury him on that day. For he who is hanged is accursed of God, and you shall not defile your land, which Jehovah your God gives you as an inheritance.

Deut 22:13 If a man takes a wife and goes in unto her, and later despises her,

Deut 22:14 And charges her with shameful deeds and spreads an evil report about her, and says, I took this woman, and when I drew near to her, I did not find her to be a virgin;

Deut 22:15 Then the girl's father and her mother shall take and bring forth the evidence of the girl's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate.

Deut 22:16 And the girl's father shall say to the elders, I gave my daughter to this man as a wife, but he despised her;

Deut 22:17 And now he charges her with shameful deeds, saying, I did not find your daughter to be a virgin. But this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

Deut 22:18 Then the elders of that city shall take the man and chastise him;

Deut 22:19 And they shall fine him one hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl's father, for he spread an evil report against a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he may not send her away all his days.

Deut 22:20 But if this claim is true-the girl was not found to be a virgin -

Deut 22:21 They shall bring the girl out to the entrance of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones so that she dies; for she has done folly in Israel by committing fornication in her father's house. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.

Deut 22:22 If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, both of them shall die, the man who was lying with the woman and the woman. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from Israel.

Deut 22:23 If a girl who is a virgin is engaged to a man, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her;

Deut 22:24 You shall bring both of them out to the gate of that city and stone them with stones so that they die, the girl because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.

Deut 22:25 But if the man finds the engaged girl in the field, and the man overpowers her and lies with her, only the man who was lying with her shall die.

Deut 22:26 But to the girl you shall not do anything; there is no sin worthy of death with the girl; for as it is when a man rises up against his neighbor and slays him, so is this matter.

Deut 22:27 For he found her in the field; the engaged girl cried out and there was no one to save her.

Deut 22:28 If a man finds a girl who is a virgin and is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found;

Deut 22:29 The man who was lying with her shall give fifty shekels of silver to the girl's father. And she shall be his wife, because he humbled her; he may not send her away all his days.

Deut 22:30 A man shall not take his father's wife, so that he does not uncover the skirt of his father's garment.

Deut 24:1 When a man takes a woman and marries her, if she does not find favor in his sight, because he has found some indecency in her; and he writes her a bill of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her away from his house;

Deut 24:2 And she goes forth from his house and goes to be another man's;

Deut 24:3 And the latter husband despises her and writes her a bill of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her away from his house; or if the latter husband, who has taken her as his wife, dies;

Deut 24:4 Then the former husband, who sent her away, may not return to take her again to be his wife after she has been defiled. For that is an abomination before Jehovah, and you shall not cause the land to sin, which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Deut 24:7 If a man is found kidnapping someone from among his brothers of the children of Israel and deals with him as a slave or sells him, then that kidnapper shall die. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.

Deut 24:16 Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers; every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

Deut 25:1 If there is a dispute between men, and they approach the court, and the judges judge them, they shall justify the righteous and condemn the wicked.

Deut 25:2 And if the wicked man is worthy of beating, the judge shall make him lie down and have him beaten before him as is sufficient for his wickedness, by number.

Deut 25:3 Forty blows he may give him; he shall not exceed, lest, in exceeding, he beat him beyond these with many blows and your brother be degraded before your eyes.

Deut 25:5 If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies, and he has no son, the wife of the deceased man shall not become the wife of a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in unto her and take her as his wife, and he shall do the duty of a husband's brother for her.

Deut 25:6 And the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his deceased brother, so that his name is not blotted out of Israel.

Deut 25:7 And if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name in Israel to his brother; he is not willing to do the duty of a husband's brother for me.

Deut 25:8 Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. And if he persists and says, I do not desire to take her;

Deut 25:9 Then his brother's wife shall draw near to him in the sight of the elders and remove his sandal from off his foot, and she shall spit in his face and respond and say, Thus shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.

Deut 25:10 And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him whose sandal has been removed.

Deut 25:11 When two men fight together, a man and his brother, and the wife of the one comes near to rescue her husband from the hand of him who is beating him, and she puts forth her hand and takes hold of his private parts;

Deut 25:12 Then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity her.
 Deut 25:13 You shall not have in your bag differing weights, one heavy and one light.
 Deut 25:14 You shall not have in your house differing measures, one large and one small.
 Deut 25:15 A full and righteous weight you shall have, and a full and righteous measure you shall have, in order that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.
 Deut 25:16 For everyone who does these things, everyone who does unrighteousness, is an abomination to Jehovah your God.
 Deut 7:9 Know therefore that it is Jehovah your God who is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and lovingkindness to the thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments,
 Deut 7:10 But repays directly those who hate Him by destroying them. He will not be slow toward him who hates Him; He will repay him directly.
 Deut 7:11 Therefore you shall keep the commandment, and the statutes and the ordinances, which I am commanding you today to do.
 Deut 7:12 And it will be that because you listen to these ordinances, and keep them and do them, Jehovah your God will keep with you the covenant and the lovingkindness which He swore to your fathers.
 Deut 7:13 And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your fresh oil, the offspring of your cattle and the young of your flock, on the land which He swore to your fathers to give you.
 Deut 7:14 You will be more blessed than all other peoples; there will not be any barren male or female among you or among your animals.
 Deut 7:15 And Jehovah will remove every sickness from you, and none of the evil illnesses of Egypt, which you know about, will He put upon you; but He will give them to all who hate you.

I. The Bible reveals the government of God—His divine governmental administration of the entire universe—Isa. 9:6-7; Rev. 4:2; 5:6; Deut. 1:8-18:

Isa 9:6 For a child is born to us, / A Son is given to us; / And the government / Is upon His shoulder; / And His name will be called / Wonderful Counselor, / Mighty God, / Eternal Father, / Prince of Peace.
 Isa 9:7 To the increase of His government / And to His peace there is no end, / Upon the throne of David / And over His kingdom, / To establish it / And to uphold it / In justice and righteousness / From now to eternity. / The zeal of Jehovah of hosts / Will accomplish this.
 Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
 Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
 Deut 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
 Deut 1:9 And I spoke to you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you alone.
 Deut 1:10 Jehovah your God has multiplied you, and now today you are as the stars of heaven in multitude.
 Deut 1:11 Jehovah, the God of your fathers, add to you a thousandfold ones like you and bless you as He has promised you!
 Deut 1:12 How can I alone bear the trouble and burden of you and your strife?
 Deut 1:13 Choose for yourselves men who are wise and prudent and well-attested, according to your tribes, and I will make them your leaders.
 Deut 1:14 And you answered me and said, The thing that you have said to do is good.
 Deut 1:15 So I took the leaders of your tribes, men who were wise and well-attested, and I made them leaders over you, captains over thousands and captains over hundreds and captains over fifties and captains over tens and officials for your tribes.
 Deut 1:16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the sojourner with him.
 Deut 1:17 You shall not respect persons in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear the face of man, for judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me; and I will hear it.
 Deut 1:18 And I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.
 A. The government of God is the administrative center of the kingdom of God—Matt. 3:2; 6:10, 13b.
 Matt 3:2 And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
 Matt 6:13b ... For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
- B. In His divine government God is the King, the Lawmaker, and the Judge; He is the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch of His government—Isa. 33:22.
 Isa 33:22 For Jehovah is our Judge, / Jehovah is our Lawmaker, / Jehovah is our King; He will save us.
- C. God's government is seen especially in His dealings with His chosen people—1 Pet. 1:2; Heb. 12:6:
 1 Pet 1:2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
 Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."
1. As believers in Christ, we have been born of God to be children of God, but we are still in the old creation—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 3:1.
 John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
 John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
 John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
 John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
 2. For this reason we need God's governmental dealings—1 Pet. 1:17; 4:12.
 1 Pet 1:17 And if you call as Father the One who without respect of persons judges according to each one's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear,
 1 Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think that the fiery ordeal among you, coming to you for a trial, is strange, as if it were a strange thing happening to you;
- D. God governs by judging; the judgment of God is for the carrying out of His government—1:17; 4:17; 5:6, 9:
 1 Pet 1:17 And if you call as Father the One who without respect of persons judges according to each one's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear,
 1 Pet 4:17 For it is time for the judgment to begin from the house of God; and if first from us, what will be the end of those who disobey the gospel of God?
 1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,
 1 Pet 5:9 Him withstand, being firm in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished among your brotherhood in the world.
1. Through various kinds of judgments, the Lord God will clear up the entire universe and purify it so that He may have new heavens and a new earth for a new universe filled with His righteousness for His delight—2 Pet. 3:13.
 2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
 2. God judges everything that does not match His government; therefore, in this age we, the children of God, are under the daily judgment of God—1 Pet. 1:17.
 1 Pet 1:17 And if you call as Father the One who without respect of persons judges according to each one's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear,
 3. God uses fiery ordeals to deal with the believers in the judgment of His governmental administration, which begins from His own house—4:12, 17.
 1 Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think that the fiery ordeal among you, coming to you for a trial, is strange, as if it were a strange thing happening to you;

- 1 Pet 4:17 For it is time for the judgment to begin from the house of God; and if first from us, what will be the end of those who disobey the gospel of God?
- E. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He recognized the government of God, lived a human life that was absolutely under the government of God, and committed everything related to Him to God's government—John 6:38; 1 Pet. 2:21-23:
- John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- 1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;
- 1 Pet 2:22 Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth;
- 1 Pet 2:23 Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;
1. The Lord kept committing all the insults and injuries that He suffered to the One who judges righteously in His government, the righteous God, to whom He submitted Himself—vv. 21-23.

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

1 Pet 2:22 Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth;

1 Pet 2:23 Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;
 2. He put His trust in this righteous One, recognizing His government—v. 23.

1 Pet 2:23 Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;
- F. As believers in Christ, we need to realize that we are under God's government, to respect God's government, and to learn to acknowledge God's government—5:6:
- 1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,
1. As God is governing us, He supplies us with whatever we need; God grants us His provision so that we may cooperate with His government—v. 5; 2 Pet. 1:1-4; 3:13.

1 Pet 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Pet 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
 2. We should be humbled under the mighty hand of God, which carries out the government of God—1 Pet. 5:6:

1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

 - a. In verse 6 *the mighty hand of God* refers to God's administrating hand seen especially in His judgment—1:17; 4:17.

1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

1 Pet 1:17 And if you call as Father the One who without respect of persons judges according to each one's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear,

1 Pet 4:17 For it is time for the judgment to begin from the house of God; and if first from us, what will be the end of those who disobey the gospel of God?

- b. To be humbled under God's mighty hand is to be made humble by God; however, we must cooperate with God's operation and be willing to be made humble, lowly, under His mighty hand—5:6.
 1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

II. The book of Deuteronomy speaks regarding the governmental administration of God—16:18-20; 17:8-20; 19:15-21; 21:1-9, 18-23; 22:13-30; 24:1-4, 7, 16; 25:1-3, 5-16:

- Deut 16:18 You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your cities which Jehovah your God is giving you, according to your tribes; and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.
- Deut 16:19 You shall not distort justice; you shall not respect persons, nor shall you take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.
- Deut 16:20 Righteousness, and only righteousness, shall you pursue, in order that you may live and possess the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.
- Deut 17:8 If a case is too complicated for you to judge between one kind of homicide and another, or between one kind of civil suit and another, or between one kind of assault and another, being disputed cases within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which Jehovah your God will choose;
- Deut 17:9 And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is presiding in those days and investigate the matter; and they shall declare to you the sentence of judgment.
- Deut 17:10 And you shall do according to the word of the sentence that they declare to you from that place which Jehovah will choose; and you shall be certain to do according to all that they instruct you.
- Deut 17:11 You shall do according to the word of the instruction with which they instruct you and according to the judgment which they speak to you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left from the sentence that they declare to you.
- Deut 17:12 And the man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands to minister there before Jehovah your God, or to the judge, that man shall die. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from Israel.
- Deut 17:13 And all the people will hear and will fear, and they will not act presumptuously anymore.
- Deut 17:14 When you enter the land which Jehovah your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it, and you say, I will set a king over me like all the nations which surround me;
- Deut 17:15 You must set a king over you whom Jehovah your God will choose; from among your brothers you shall set a king over you; you may not put a foreigner, who is not your brother, over you.
- Deut 17:16 However, he shall not amass horses to himself, and he shall not turn the people back to Egypt so that he may amass horses, since Jehovah has said to you, You shall never again return that way.
- Deut 17:17 And he shall not amass wives to himself, so that his heart does not turn aside; nor shall he amass silver and gold to himself in great amounts.
- Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.
- Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them,
- Deut 17:20 So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.
- Deut 19:15 One witness only shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin which he has committed; at the word of two witnesses or at the word of three witnesses shall a matter be established.
- Deut 19:16 If a malicious witness rises up against a man to testify against him of wrongdoing,
- Deut 19:17 The two men who have the dispute shall stand before Jehovah, before the priests and the judges who are serving in those days.
- Deut 19:18 And the judges shall investigate thoroughly; and if indeed the witness is a false witness, if he has testified falsely against his brother,

Deut 19:19 You shall do to him as he intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.

Deut 19:20 And those who remain will hear and will fear and will never again do anything like this evil thing in your midst.

Deut 19:21 And your eye shall not pity: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot.

Deut 21:1 If a slain man is found lying in the field in the land which Jehovah your God is giving you to possess, it not being known who slew him,

Deut 21:2 Then your elders and judges shall go out and measure the distance to the cities that surround the slain man.

Deut 21:3 And the city that is nearest the slain man, that is, the elders of that city, shall take a heifer of the herd which has not been worked and has not drawn the yoke;

Deut 21:4 And the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a river valley that flows continually, which has not been plowed or sown, and break the neck of the heifer there in the river valley.

Deut 21:5 And the priests, the sons of Levi, shall draw near; for Jehovah your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of Jehovah, and by their word shall every dispute and every assault be settled.

Deut 21:6 And all the elders of that city that is nearest the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the river valley.

Deut 21:7 And they shall answer and say, Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it done.

Deut 21:8 Cover Your people Israel, whom You have ransomed, O Jehovah, and do not set the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of Your people Israel. And the guilt of the blood shall be covered from them.

Deut 21:9 Thus you shall utterly remove the guilt of the innocent blood from your midst, for you do what is right in the sight of Jehovah.

Deut 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, one who does not listen to the voice of his father nor to the voice of his mother; and though they chastise him, he does not listen to them;

Deut 21:19 Then his father and mother shall seize him and bring him forth to the elders of his city and to the gate of his place.

Deut 21:20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he does not listen to our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.

Deut 21:21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him with stones so that he dies. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear and will fear.

Deut 21:22 And if in a man there is a sin, a cause worthy of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree;

Deut 21:23 His corpse shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you must bury him on that day. For he who is hanged is accursed of God, and you shall not defile your land, which Jehovah your God gives you as an inheritance.

Deut 22:13 If a man takes a wife and goes in unto her, and later despises her,

Deut 22:14 And charges her with shameful deeds and spreads an evil report about her, and says, I took this woman, and when I drew near to her, I did not find her to be a virgin;

Deut 22:15 Then the girl's father and her mother shall take and bring forth the evidence of the girl's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate.

Deut 22:16 And the girl's father shall say to the elders, I gave my daughter to this man as a wife, but he despised her;

Deut 22:17 And now he charges her with shameful deeds, saying, I did not find your daughter to be a virgin. But this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

Deut 22:18 Then the elders of that city shall take the man and chastise him;

Deut 22:19 And they shall fine him one hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl's father, for he spread an evil report against a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he may not send her away all his days.

Deut 22:20 But if this claim is true-the girl was not found to be a virgin -

Deut 22:21 They shall bring the girl out to the entrance of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones so that she dies; for she has done folly in Israel by committing fornication in her father's house. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.

- Deut 22:22 If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, both of them shall die, the man who was lying with the woman and the woman. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from Israel.
- Deut 22:23 If a girl who is a virgin is engaged to a man, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her;
- Deut 22:24 You shall bring both of them out to the gate of that city and stone them with stones so that they die, the girl because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.
- Deut 22:25 But if the man finds the engaged girl in the field, and the man overpowers her and lies with her, only the man who was lying with her shall die.
- Deut 22:26 But to the girl you shall not do anything; there is no sin worthy of death with the girl; for as it is when a man rises up against his neighbor and slays him, so is this matter.
- Deut 22:27 For he found her in the field; the engaged girl cried out and there was no one to save her.
- Deut 22:28 If a man finds a girl who is a virgin and is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found;
- Deut 22:29 The man who was lying with her shall give fifty shekels of silver to the girl's father. And she shall be his wife, because he humbled her; he may not send her away all his days.
- Deut 22:30 A man shall not take his father's wife, so that he does not uncover the skirt of his father's garment.
- Deut 24:1 When a man takes a woman and marries her, if she does not find favor in his sight, because he has found some indecency in her; and he writes her a bill of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her away from his house;
- Deut 24:2 And she goes forth from his house and goes to be another man's;
- Deut 24:3 And the latter husband despises her and writes her a bill of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her away from his house; or if the latter husband, who has taken her as his wife, dies;
- Deut 24:4 Then the former husband, who sent her away, may not return to take her again to be his wife after she has been defiled. For that is an abomination before Jehovah, and you shall not cause the land to sin, which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.
- Deut 24:7 If a man is found kidnapping someone from among his brothers of the children of Israel and deals with him as a slave or sells him, then that kidnapper shall die. Thus you shall utterly remove the evil from your midst.
- Deut 24:16 Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers; every man shall be put to death for his own sin.
- Deut 25:1 If there is a dispute between men, and they approach the court, and the judges judge them, they shall justify the righteous and condemn the wicked.
- Deut 25:2 And if the wicked man is worthy of beating, the judge shall make him lie down and have him beaten before him as is sufficient for his wickedness, by number.
- Deut 25:3 Forty blows he may give him; he shall not exceed, lest, in exceeding, he beat him beyond these with many blows and your brother be degraded before your eyes.
- Deut 25:5 If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies, and he has no son, the wife of the deceased man shall not become the wife of a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in unto her and take her as his wife, and he shall do the duty of a husband's brother for her.
- Deut 25:6 And the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his deceased brother, so that his name is not blotted out of Israel.
- Deut 25:7 And if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name in Israel to his brother; he is not willing to do the duty of a husband's brother for me.
- Deut 25:8 Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. And if he persists and says, I do not desire to take her;
- Deut 25:9 Then his brother's wife shall draw near to him in the sight of the elders and remove his sandal from off his foot, and she shall spit in his face and respond and say, Thus shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.
- Deut 25:10 And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him whose sandal has been removed.
- Deut 25:11 When two men fight together, a man and his brother, and the wife of the one comes near to rescue her husband from the hand of him who is beating him, and she puts forth her hand and takes hold of his private parts;
- Deut 25:12 Then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity her.

- Deut 25:13 You shall not have in your bag differing weights, one heavy and one light.
 Deut 25:14 You shall not have in your house differing measures, one large and one small.
 Deut 25:15 A full and righteous weight you shall have, and a full and righteous measure you shall have, in order that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.
 Deut 25:16 For everyone who does these things, everyone who does unrighteousness, is an abomination to Jehovah your God.

A. The expression *governmental administration* is not found in Deuteronomy, but if we read this book thoroughly, we will see that it is a book of God's government, even His governmental administration.

B. God's dealing with His people was an exercise of His governmental administration—Rev. 3:19:

Rev 3:19 As many as I love I rebuke and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent.

1. The wise God is a perfecting Father who loves His children and deals with them governmentally; He disciplines us for the purpose of perfecting us—Heb. 12:6.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."

2. The children of Israel were disciplined for their mistakes—Num. 12:1-16; 14:39-45; 16:1-50.

Num 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman).

Num 12:2 And they said, Has Jehovah indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not also spoken through us? And Jehovah heard it.

Num 12:3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than anyone else who was on the face of the earth.

Num 12:4 And suddenly Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron and to Miriam, You three come out to the Tent of Meeting. So the three of them came out.

Num 12:5 Then Jehovah came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent, and called Aaron and Miriam. And when they had both come forward,

Num 12:6 He said, Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, / I, Jehovah, will make Myself known to him in a vision; / I will speak with him in a dream.

Num 12:7 My servant Moses is not so; / He is faithful in all My house.

Num 12:8 With him I speak face to face, even openly, and not in riddles; / And he beholds the form of Jehovah. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?

Num 12:9 And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against them, and He departed.

Num 12:10 And when the cloud had departed from over the tent; there Miriam was, leprous, as white as snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, leprous.

Num 12:11 And Aaron said to Moses, Oh, my lord, please do not lay this sin upon us that we have so foolishly committed.

Num 12:12 Please do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb.

Num 12:13 And Moses cried to Jehovah, saying, Please heal her, O God, please.

Num 12:14 And Jehovah said to Moses, If her father had just spat in her face, would she not bear her shame seven days? Let her be shut up outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.

Num 12:15 So Miriam was shut up outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out until Miriam had been brought in again.

Num 12:16 After that the people set out from Hazeroth and encamped in the wilderness of Paran.

Num 14:39 And when Moses spoke these words to all the children of Israel, the people mourned greatly.

Num 14:40 And they rose up early in the morning to go up to the top of the mountain, saying, Here we are; now we will go up to the place which Jehovah has spoken of, for we have sinned.

Num 14:41 But Moses said, Why do you again transgress the commandment of Jehovah? This will not succeed.

Num 14:42 Do not go up-for Jehovah is not among you-so that you are not struck down before your enemies.

Num 14:43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword. Because you have turned back from following Jehovah, therefore Jehovah will not be with you.

Num 14:44 But they presumed to go up to the top of the mountain, even though neither the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah nor Moses had departed out of the midst of the camp.

Num 14:45 Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that hill country came down and struck them and beat them back as far as Hormah.

Num 16:1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben, took men

Num 16:2 And rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly, who were summoned to the meeting, well-known men.

Num 16:3 And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take too much upon yourselves, for all the assembly are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah?

Num 16:4 And when Moses heard this, he fell on his face.

Num 16:5 And he spoke to Korah and to all his company, saying, In the morning Jehovah will make known who is His and who is holy, and will bring him near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose He will bring near to Himself.

Num 16:6 Do this: Take censers for yourselves, Korah and all your company,

Num 16:7 And put fire in them, and put incense on them before Jehovah tomorrow; and the man whom Jehovah chooses, he shall be holy. It is you who take too much upon yourselves, O sons of Levi!

Num 16:8 And Moses said to Korah, Hear now, O sons of Levi:

Num 16:9 Is it a small thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the assembly of Israel to bring you near to Himself to do the service of the tabernacle of Jehovah and to stand before the assembly to minister to them?

Num 16:10 Or that He has brought you near, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And do you seek the priesthood also?

Num 16:11 Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against Jehovah; but Aaron, what is he that you murmur against him?

Num 16:12 Then Moses sent word to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab; but they said, We will not come up!

Num 16:13 Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, but must you also lord it over us?

Num 16:14 Indeed, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!

Num 16:15 Then Moses became very angry and said to Jehovah, Do not regard their offering. I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them.

Num 16:16 And Moses said to Korah, You and all your company be present before Jehovah, both you and they along with Aaron, tomorrow.

Num 16:17 And let each of you take his censer and put incense on them, and each of you present his censer before Jehovah, two hundred fifty censers; you also and Aaron shall each present his censer.

Num 16:18 So each took his censer and put fire in them and laid incense on them, and they stood at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting with Moses and Aaron.

Num 16:19 Thus Korah gathered the whole assembly against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah appeared to the whole assembly.

Num 16:20 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

Num 16:21 Separate yourselves from among this assembly, so that I may consume them in a moment.

Num 16:22 But they fell on their faces and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, will one man sin and You be angry with the whole assembly?

Num 16:23 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 16:24 Speak to the assembly, saying, Get away from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Num 16:25 Then Moses rose up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

Num 16:26 And he spoke to the assembly, saying, Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing which belongs to them, or you will be swept away with all their sins.

Num 16:27 So they got away from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood at the entrance of their tents, with their wives and their children and their little ones.

Num 16:28 And Moses said, By this you shall know that Jehovah has sent me to do all these works, for it is not of myself.

Num 16:29 If these people die as all human beings die, or if what befalls all human beings befalls them, then Jehovah has not sent me.

Num 16:30 But if Jehovah brings about a new thing, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have despised Jehovah.

Num 16:31 And as soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them was split open.

Num 16:32 So the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households and everyone who belonged to Korah and all their possessions.

Num 16:33 So they and all that belonged to them descended alive into Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the congregation.

Num 16:34 And all Israel who were around them fled at their outcry, for they said, The earth may swallow us up too!

Num 16:35 And fire came forth from Jehovah and consumed the two hundred fifty men who presented the incense.

Num 16:36 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 16:37 Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take the censers up out of the burning and scatter the fire about; for they are holy.

Num 16:38 The censers of those who have sinned against their own lives, let them be made into beaten plates for a covering of the altar, for they presented them before Jehovah and they became holy. So they shall be a sign to the children of Israel.

Num 16:39 And Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers which those who were burned had offered; and they beat them out as a covering of the altar,

Num 16:40 As a reminder to the children of Israel that no stranger who is not of the seed of Aaron may come near to burn incense before Jehovah, so that he does not become like Korah and his company, just as Jehovah had spoken to him through Moses.

Num 16:41 But on the next day the whole assembly of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, You have caused the people of Jehovah to die.

Num 16:42 But when the assembly gathered against Moses and against Aaron, they looked toward the Tent of Meeting, and there the cloud was, covering it; and the glory of Jehovah appeared.

Num 16:43 And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the Tent of Meeting.

Num 16:44 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 16:45 Get away from the midst of this assembly that I might consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

Num 16:46 And Moses said to Aaron, Take the censer and put fire in it from the altar, and lay incense on it, and carry it quickly to the assembly, and make expiation for them. For wrath has gone forth from Jehovah; the plague has begun.

Num 16:47 And Aaron took it as Moses had said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And indeed the plague had begun among the people. So he put on the incense and made expiation for the people.

Num 16:48 And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.

Num 16:49 Now those who died by the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died on account of Korah.

- Num 16:50 So Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting when the plague had been stopped.
3. Even Moses was disciplined by God for his mistake in 20:2-13:
- Num 20:2 And there was no water for the assembly, and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.
- Num 20:3 And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying, If only we had expired when our brothers expired before Jehovah!
- Num 20:4 Why then have you brought the congregation of Jehovah into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die there?
- Num 20:5 Why then did you bring us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is not even water to drink.
- Num 20:6 And Moses and Aaron went from before the congregation to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting and fell upon their faces, and the glory of Jehovah appeared to them.
- Num 20:7 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather the assembly, you and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes, so that it yields its water. Thus you shall bring forth water for them out of the rock and give the assembly and their livestock something to drink.
- Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before Jehovah, as He had commanded him.
- Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said to them, Listen now, you rebels: Shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?
- Num 20:11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his rod twice; and abundant water came forth, and the assembly and their livestock drank.
- Num 20:12 And Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe in Me, to sanctify Me in the sight of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.
- Num 20:13 These are the waters of Meribah, where the children of Israel contended with Jehovah, and He was sanctified among them.
- a. Moses made a serious mistake, which God could not tolerate, because it touched His administration—vv. 10-12.
- Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said to them, Listen now, you rebels: Shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?
- Num 20:11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his rod twice; and abundant water came forth, and the assembly and their livestock drank.
- Num 20:12 And Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe in Me, to sanctify Me in the sight of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.
- b. God's administration is righteous, and even though He loved Moses, He could not for this reason fail to exercise His administration.
- c. Moses offended God, and as a result, he lost his right to enter into the good land—v. 12; Deut. 3:23-29:
- Num 20:12 And Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe in Me, to sanctify Me in the sight of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.
- Deut 3:23 And I pleaded with Jehovah at that time, saying,
- Deut 3:24 O Lord Jehovah, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do things like what You have done and things like Your mighty deeds?
- Deut 3:25 Let me please cross over and see the good land that is across the Jordan, this fine hill country and Lebanon.
- Deut 3:26 But Jehovah was infuriated with me on your account and did not listen to me. And Jehovah said to me, Enough! Speak no more to Me about this matter.
- Deut 3:27 Go up to the top of Pisgah; and lift up your eyes to the west and to the north and to the south and to the east; and see it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.

Deut 3:28 But charge Joshua, and strengthen and encourage him, for it is he who will cross over before this people and cause them to inherit the land which you will see.

Deut 3:29 And we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

1) Jehovah allowed Moses to view the land, but He did not permit him to go in—34:1, 4.

Deut 34:1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which faces Jericho. And Jehovah showed him all the land: Gilead as far as Dan;

Deut 34:4 And Jehovah said to him, This is the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, To your seed I will give it. I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not go over there.

2) Rather, “Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab according to the word of Jehovah”—v. 5.

Deut 34:5 So Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab according to the word of Jehovah.

3) Moses served God faithfully for forty years, but because his mistake involved God’s governmental administration, he lost the right to enter into the good land—4:21.

Deut 4:21 But Jehovah was angry with me on your account and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan and that I would not enter the good land which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.

d. Moses’ being refused in the matter of entering and possessing the good land shows God’s righteous governmental administration; this was an instance of God’s governmental administration, of God’s governmental dealing—1:37:

Deut 1:37 With me also Jehovah was angry on your account, saying, You also shall not enter there;

1) The way God dealt with Moses in not allowing him to enter into the good land caused the children of Israel to have more fear of God’s righteous dealing—4:21.

Deut 4:21 But Jehovah was angry with me on your account and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan and that I would not enter the good land which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.

2) The punishment Moses suffered was a perfecting to the children of Israel; they should have learned from this how fearful the righteous God is in His governmental dealings—32:52.

Deut 32:52 But from a distance you shall see the land, yet you shall not go there into the land which I am giving to the children of Israel.

III. The government of God is the governmental administration of the righteous, holy, faithful, and loving God:

A. God is righteous, and His government is established upon righteousness—1 John 1:9; Rev. 15:3; Psa. 89:14:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God the Almighty! Righteous and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!

Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.

1. God’s government requires righteousness; righteousness is a matter of God’s government—v. 14; 1 Pet. 2:23-24.

Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.

- 1 Pet 2:23 Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;
- 1 Pet 2:24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.
2. Righteousness is related to God's outward acts, ways, actions, and activities; everything God does is righteous—Rev. 15:3.
- Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God the Almighty! Righteous and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!
3. The righteousness of God is what God is in His actions with respect to justice and righteousness—1 John 1:9; Rev. 16:7.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Rev 16:7 And I heard the altar saying, Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.
4. Righteousness is related to the kingdom of God—Rom. 14:17:
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- a. God's throne is established with righteousness as the foundation—Psa. 89:14.
- Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.
- b. Where God's righteousness is, there His kingdom is also—Isa. 32:1; Heb. 1:8-9.
- Isa 32:1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, / And the rulers will rule according to justice.
- Heb 1:8 But of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
- Heb 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners";
5. In the death of Christ we have died to sins so that we might live to righteousness—1 Pet. 2:24:
- 1 Pet 2:24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.
- a. As God's people living under His government, we must live a righteous life—Matt. 5:20; 1 John 2:29; 3:7.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- 1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been begotten of Him.
- 1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one lead you astray; he who practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous;
- b. The expression *live to righteousness* is related to the fulfilling of God's governmental requirements—1 Pet. 2:24:
- 1 Pet 2:24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.
- 1) We were saved so that we might live rightly under the government of God, that is, in a way that matches the righteous requirements of His government—Psa. 89:14; Matt. 5:20.
- Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- 2) In Christ's death we have been separated from sins, and in His resurrection

we have been enlivened so that in our Christian life we might live spontaneously to righteousness under the government of God—Rom. 6:8, 10-11, 18; Eph. 2:5-6; John 14:19; 2 Tim. 2:11.

Rom 6:8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him,

Rom 6:10 For the death which He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life which He lives, He lives to God.

Rom 6:11 So also you, reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but living to God in Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:18 And having been freed from sin, you were enslaved to righteousness.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

2 Tim 2:11 Faithful is the word: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

6. Because God's government requires righteousness, 2 Peter 3:13 says, "According to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells":

a. This means that everything will be in order, headed up, and regulated.

b. Everything will be governed, controlled, and under the proper rule, for the throne of God, the kingdom, the divine administration, will be there, and the result will be peace and joy—Rom. 14:17; 15:13, 33.

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom 15:33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

B. God is holy; holiness is one of the main attributes of God—1 Pet. 1:15-16:

1 Pet 1:15 But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life;

1 Pet 1:16 Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."

1. "The four living creatures...have no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming"—Rev. 4:8:

a. The emphasis in Revelation 4:8 is that the Triune God is holy and is triply holy, referring to the quality of God's nature—God's being; what He is, is holy—Isa. 6:3.

Rev 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings apiece, are full of eyes around and within; and they have no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming.

Isa 6:3 And one called to the other, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Jehovah of hosts; / The whole earth is filled with His glory.

b. To partake of God's holiness is to partake of the quality of His nature, of what He is—Heb. 12:10.

Heb 12:10 For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them; but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness.

2. "Our God is also a consuming fire"—v. 29:

a. God is a consuming fire in His holiness and severity—Deut. 9:3; Rom. 11:22.

Deut 9:3 Know therefore today that Jehovah your God is the One crossing over before you as a consuming fire; it is He who will destroy them, and it is He who will subdue them before you, so that you may dispossess them and destroy them quickly, as Jehovah has said to you.

- Rom 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but on you, the kindness of God, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.
- b. Whatever does not correspond to His holy nature, He, as the consuming fire, will consume; thus, He is severe, expressing His holiness in severity—Deut. 9:3.
Deut 9:3 Know therefore today that Jehovah your God is the One crossing over before you as a consuming fire; it is He who will destroy them, and it is He who will subdue them before you, so that you may dispossess them and destroy them quickly, as Jehovah has said to you.
- C. God is faithful—1 Pet. 4:19; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; Rev. 3:14; 19:11:
- 1 Pet 4:19 So then let those also who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator.
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has taken you except that which is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow that you be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation, also make the way out, that you may be able to endure it.
- Rev 3:14 And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God:
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
1. God's word is faithful; whatever proceeds out of the mouth of God will be fulfilled—Deut. 8:3; 1 Tim. 1:15; 2 Tim. 2:11.
Deut 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had never known nor your fathers had ever known, so that He might make you know that man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah.
1 Tim 1:15 Faithful is the word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost.
2 Tim 2:11 Faithful is the word: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;
 2. The faithful God who has called us will also sanctify us wholly and preserve our whole being complete—1 Thes. 5:23-24.
1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thes 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.
 3. Divine faithfulness is a sweet attribute of God—2 Tim. 2:13; 1 John 1:9.
2 Tim 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 4. In Deuteronomy 7:9-15 Moses wanted the people to realize that Jehovah their God is the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments.
Deut 7:9 Know therefore that it is Jehovah your God who is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and lovingkindness to the thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments,
Deut 7:10 But repays directly those who hate Him by destroying them. He will not be slow toward him who hates Him; He will repay him directly.
Deut 7:11 Therefore you shall keep the commandment, and the statutes and the ordinances, which I am commanding you today to do.
Deut 7:12 And it will be that because you listen to these ordinances, and keep them and do them, Jehovah your God will keep with you the covenant and the lovingkindness which He swore to your fathers.
Deut 7:13 And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your fresh oil, the offspring of your cattle and the young of your flock, on the land which He swore to your fathers to give you.

- Deut 7:14 You will be more blessed than all other peoples; there will not be any barren male or female among you or among your animals.
- Deut 7:15 And Jehovah will remove every sickness from you, and none of the evil illnesses of Egypt, which you know about, will He put upon you; but He will give them to all who hate you.

D. God is love—Eph. 2:4; 1 John 4:8-10, 16; Deut. 7:7; 10:14-15; Jer. 31:3:

- Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- 1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.
- 1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.
- 1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.
- 1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.
- Deut 7:7 It was not because you were more numerous than all the peoples that Jehovah has set His affection on you and has chosen you, for you were the fewest of all the peoples;
- Deut 10:14 Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
- Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
- Jer 31:3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

1. Love is the nature of God's essence; thus, love is an essential attribute of God—Rom. 5:5, 8; 8:35, 39; 15:30.
 - Rom 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
 - Rom 5:8 But God commends His own love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
 - Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Rom 15:30 Now I exhort you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,
2. Deuteronomy speaks of God as a God of love—7:7; 10:14-15; 11:12:
 - Deut 7:7 It was not because you were more numerous than all the peoples that Jehovah has set His affection on you and has chosen you, for you were the fewest of all the peoples;
 - Deut 10:14 Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
 - Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
 - Deut 11:12 It is a land which Jehovah your God cares for; always the eyes of Jehovah your God are upon it, from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year.
 - a. As a God of righteousness, God is strict and narrow; as a God of love, He is broad and all-embracing—Jer. 31:3.
 - Jer 31:3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.
 - b. God is a loving God, but His love is a perfecting love, not a spoiling love; God loves us and also disciplines us, for He has His governmental administration—Heb. 12:6.
 - Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."
3. As a whole, Deuteronomy ultimately shows us that the love of God consummately works for His people so that they may enjoy His full blessing according to His will and foreknowledge—Eph. 1:4-5, 9, 11; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:29:
 - Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and

- without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- 1 Pet 1:2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- a. In spite of our failure in loving God and fearing Him and in spite of our unfaithfulness, God will be successful—Phil. 1:6.
- Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun in you a good work will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus;
- b. No matter what the condition of His people may be, God will be faithful to the end, and eventually, He will accomplish His intention so that we may enjoy His full blessing—1 Cor. 1:8-9; Rom. 8:37-39; Num. 6:23-26.
- 1 Cor 1:8 Who will also confirm you until the end unreprouvable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.
- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers
- Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,
- Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
- Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- E. The book of Deuteronomy is very particular in its revelation of what God is—1:6-8; 3:20-21, 24; 4:1:
- Deut 1:6 Jehovah our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.
- Deut 1:7 Turn and set out, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland, and in the Negev and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.
- Deut 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
- Deut 3:20 Until Jehovah gives rest to your brothers as He has to you, and they also possess the land which Jehovah your God is giving them across the Jordan, and you return, each man to his possession which I have given you.
- Deut 3:21 And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, Yours are the eyes that have seen all that Jehovah your God has done to these two kings; so will Jehovah do to all the kingdoms into which you are about to cross over.
- Deut 3:24 O Lord Jehovah, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do things like what You have done and things like Your mighty deeds?
- Deut 4:1 And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances which I am teaching you to do, in order that you may live and go in and possess the land which Jehovah, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

1. All the rehearsed statutes and judgments, with the new developments, speak forth in detail concerning the God of Israel—7:7; 10:14-15; 11:12.
 - Deut 7:7 It was not because you were more numerous than all the peoples that Jehovah has set His affection on you and has chosen you, for you were the fewest of all the peoples;
 - Deut 10:14 Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
 - Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
 - Deut 11:12 It is a land which Jehovah your God cares for; always the eyes of Jehovah your God are upon it, from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year.
2. The God manifested in Deuteronomy is not only righteous, holy, faithful, loving, and gracious but also very fine, tender, considerate, and sympathetic; this is our God—Eph. 1:3, 17; 2:4; Rev. 5:12-13.
 - Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
 - Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
 - Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
 - Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.
 - Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.

Study Questions

1. Define the system of government and the system of grace, and with illustrations, explain the relationship between these two systems.
2. Explain how and why God governs by judging.
3. How does Moses' experience of God's government teach us to honor God's government?
4. What is the relationship between the righteousness of God, the kingdom of God, and the government of God?
5. Describe fully and accurately the God manifested in Deuteronomy, and then respond to this question: Is this God your God?