

## Christians and the Government

### *Romans 13:1-7*

The Israelites' government transitioned from a theocracy under Moses and Joshua, to a confederation of tribes led by "judges". Then back to a theocracy under Samuel, and finally to a monarchy with human kings, like Saul and David.

Rome had been a republic for 500 years, meaning it had been ruled by a senate. Just before the New Testament period, it had become an empire, ruled by an emperor mainly, rather than the senate.

### **Why should we submit to the government?**

- Reason 1: God is **sovereign** over it. Romans 13:1-2
- Reason 2: The government should not be a source of fear to **good** citizens, but to those who do **evil**. Romans 13:3-4
- Reason 3: Because of our **conscience**. Romans 13:5
- Reason 4: Our **Response** vs. Romans 13:6-7

**Civil disobedience is allowed, even necessary, when there is clear conflict between governmental laws and God's laws.**

- The Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:16-17)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:16-18)
- The apostles and the Sanhedrin. (Acts 4:19-20)