

# Apply The Word

[www.crosswaypa.org](http://www.crosswaypa.org)



## Message Info

### Title:

The Kingship of God

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

September 18, 2022

### Scriptures:

Romans 13:1-7

**Theme:** Think biblically about world order to remain steadfast amid chaos.

**Introduction:** Christians are to obey the civil government, as Romans 13 teaches us. The only exception comes when the government tells us to disobey Christ. During Covid, we found that the government routinely overstepped its authority and issued directives that were contrary to God's word. Therefore, Christians had to think carefully and obedience and resistance in order to obey the Lord. We must understand how God has ordered the world so that we can walk faithfully before him.

Here are 3 points on how God has ordered his world:

#### 1. Author

Scripture refers to God by several terms that reference his sovereignty (King, Lord, Creator), and Author (Acts 3:11-16) fits that theme. As Author, he creates and rules over the story of this world.

Author also nicely ties with *authority*, emphasizing the biblical idea of his total rule over all that he has made.

Human authority exists under God and is designed to serve him, not vice-versa (Rom 13:1).

Secular neutrality is a myth—there is no 'objective' place in God's world. Therefore, there is no neutral, objective government.

#### 2. Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God was first evident in Eden, and later in Israel. It was God's people in his place under his rule. And in both places, his people failed the test of obedience, showing the need for something greater.

When Jesus came, John the Baptist announced the coming of the kingdom, as did Jesus himself (Mark 1:14-15). He brought the greater kingdom. And someday, he will return and that kingdom will be consummated. All broken governments will be swept away.

#### 2. Earthly kingdoms

All earthly authority includes the idea of force, or power. The Lord gives authorities powers to do certain things. Rom 13:1-7 teaches that civil government 'bears the sword' to punish evil and to protect others.

When civil government rejects God, it ends up being bestial (Rev 13:1-10), rewarding the evildoer and punishing the righteous. We can expect this, trusting that the Lord still reigns over even the most wicked governors.

#### Questions:

1. How do you view authority?
2. Do you gladly submit to duly-constituted authority? Do you faithfully exercise the authority the Lord has given you?
3. What do you think of the idea of secular neutrality?