

Bible Reading

Isaiah 33:22

Deuteronomy 32:4

Genesis 18:25

Romans 8:1

II Corinthians 5:10

Psalm 19:7

Malachi 3:6

Psalm 103:19

Review Questions

What three aspects of God's nature are found in Isaiah 33:22?

In Deuteronomy 32:4, what is taught about the character of God?

Read Genesis 18:25. What do we always know to be true concerning God's judgment?

In Psalm 19:7, the law of God is described in what way? How does this compare with the laws of man?

According to Psalm 103:19, how far does the authority of God extend?

Lesson 11

Our Heritage of *Liberty*

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us." Isaiah 33:22

The Founding Fathers wanted a representative government with built-in checks and balances.

They had witnessed the tyranny of centralized authority and sought to establish a political system ruled by law, balanced by a division of power, and led by elected representatives. But where could such a pattern be found?

James Madison believed he discovered the perfect example of tripartite government that distinguishes between judicial, legislative, and executive responsibilities. He directed his peers to Isaiah 33:22, which reads, *"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king: he will save us."* What people could never do because of their wicked hearts, the Lord perfectly accomplishes. What must be divided among fallible men in human government is perfectly united in the Lord. He is, at once, Judge, Lawgiver, and King—not in limitation, but in perfection. Isaiah 33:22 teaches that true liberty is found in our relationship with God as our Judge, Lawgiver, and King.

Notes

Governments that value life and liberty demand a separation of powers.

We must look beyond the structure of human government and consider the character of God.

Notes

The Lord Is Our Judge.

The Judicial Authority of Liberty

The Lord, as our Judge, is the One who perfectly interprets and applies justice. In human government, the purpose of the judicial branch is to ensure that justice is rightly applied by interpreting the law, evaluating evidence, and rendering verdicts. Human judges are limited, often working with incomplete information and subject to bias. God, however, judges with perfect knowledge (Psalm 139:1-4) and perfect righteousness (Deuteronomy 32:4). Genesis 18:25 declares that the Judge of all the earth will do what is right.

God knows every fact, every motive, and every intention.

This has implications for Christian liberty. If God is Judge, then liberty is not the absence of judgment; it is the assurance of righteous judgment. Liberty is anchored in objective justice, not human opinion. Every life will be evaluated according to God's standard (II Corinthians 5:10). Our liberty is not freedom from judgment but the confidence of living under a perfect Judge who always rules aright.

The Lord Is Our Lawgiver.

The Legislative Authority of Liberty

The Lord, as the Lawgiver, is the One who defines truth and establishes the standard for life. In human government, the legislative branch creates laws and determines what is right and wrong within society. Unlike human legislatures, which debate, develop, and revise laws because they are limited and imperfect, God speaks with perfection. He does not discover truth. God declares truth from His own nature.

God's law is not evolving or provisional; it is complete, unchanging, and authoritative (Psalm 19:7). God's law flows directly from His unchanging character (Malachi 3:6).

Because God is the Lawgiver, Christian liberty is not defined by personal preference or cultural consensus. Liberty is defined by the revealed will of God. Just as human laws bring structure to society, God's Word structures life.

The Lord Is Our King.

The Executive Authority of Liberty

The Lord, as King, is the active Ruler who governs and secures His people. In human government, the executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws, administering policies, and managing the nation's affairs. Executive power takes what has been established in the legislature, interpreted in the judiciary, and ensures it becomes a lived reality. Likewise, God as King does not simply define truth; He executes and applies it.

God's Kingship is not passive authority; it is active governance. Psalm 103:19 affirms that "His kingdom ruleth over all." He orders the course of history, directs the lives of His people, and ensures that His purposes are accomplished. Unlike human executives, whose power must be limited because they are corrupted by sin, God's authority is perfect, unified, and incorruptible. As Christians, we are free to live under God's active guiding and sustaining rule.

True liberty is experienced through daily guidance, direction, and purpose under God's authority.

Notes

Christian liberty operates within the framework of God's Word.