



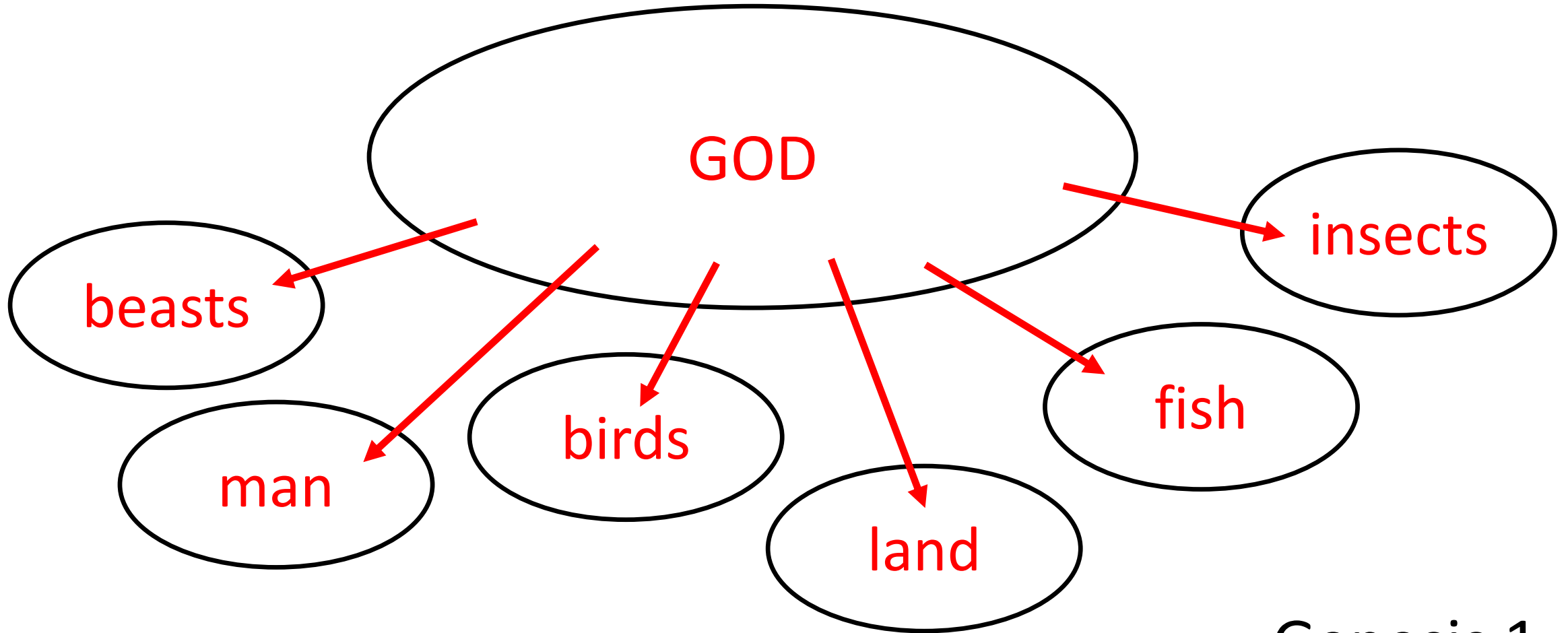
Beyond the Ballot

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF GOVERNMENT

It's Everywhere You Want to Be

- Government influences our lives in countless ways.
 - Building a home? Check zoning regulations, get permits, know building codes, sign a contract, etc...
 - Regulations on television programming, cell phone towers, food packaging, water purity, etc...
- *What's necessary? What's waste?*
 - Admit you and I naturally dislike authority.
 - Start by asking “What authority did God intend gov.?”

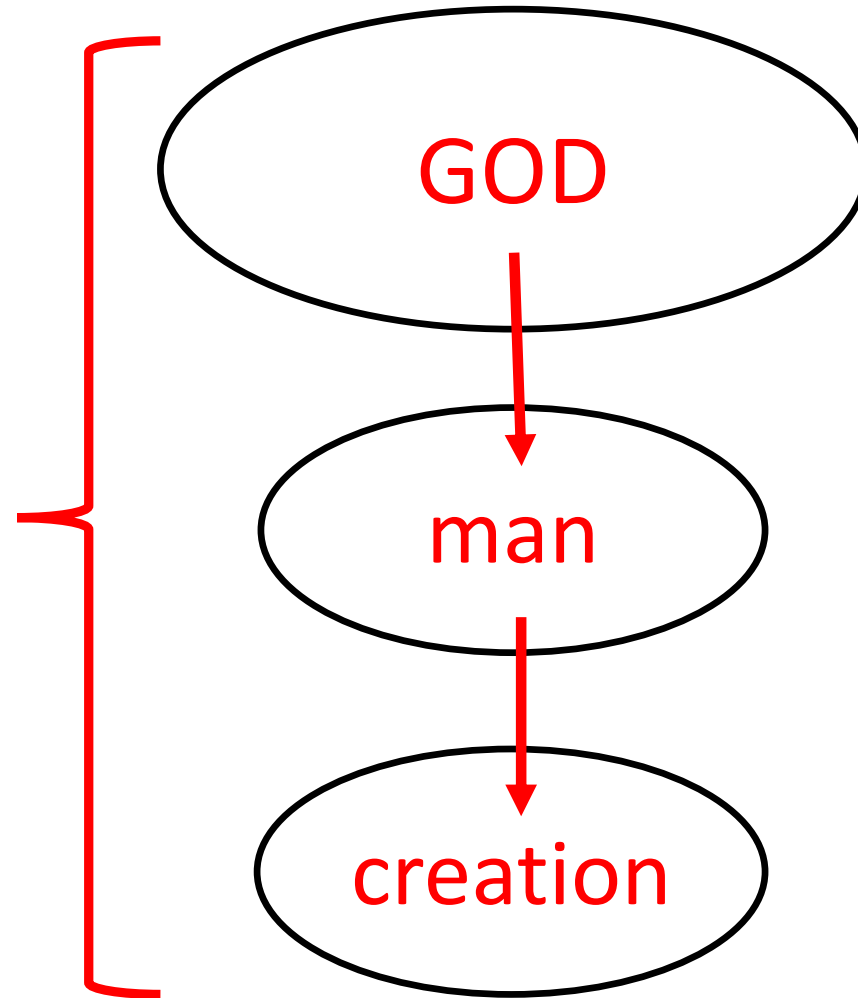
God's Authority Over All



Genesis 1

A Structure of Authority

A Government



Genesis 1:26-28

Government: Prior to the Fall

“Then **God** said, ‘Let us make **man** in our image, after our likeness. **And let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth’”

— Genesis 1:26.

Government: Prior to the Fall

- “image, after our likeness”
 - Kings placed carved images throughout their territory.
 - God created an image of Himself to be placed on earth.
 - Man is God’s image. Represents God’s authority.
 - “have dominion”
 - The idea is to manage, order, rule, govern.
- God created men and women as the physical representation of His authority on earth.

Government: Prior to the Fall

Partial Definition: Government is the institution God ordained to manage creation.

- God as King created Adam and Eve to manage His world in ways pleasing to Him. Perfect harmony.
- One law in Eden...

“of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat” — Genesis 2:16.

Government: At the Fall

- Prior to the Fall — Authority and Submission
(Creation submitted to man. Man submitted to God.)
- After the Fall — Authority and Rebellion

A world of joy → A world of despair, fighting, misery
(Cain's name even indicates despair)

Government: After the Fall

Genesis 4-5

Man seems to be advancing (tech, arts, cities). Yet, man is becoming worse (murder, polygamy).

- Cain killed his brother and declared himself ruler over other men (Gen 4:8, 17). Naming implies authority.
- Lamech killed, exulted in it, and married many wives (Gen 4:23-24). Lamech marks the beginning of brute force to achieve power over others.

Government: After the Fall

“Now the earth was **corrupt** in God’s sight, and the earth was **filled with violence**. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was **corrupt**, for all flesh had **corrupted** their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, ‘I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is **filled with violence** through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth’”

— Genesis 6:11-13.

Government: After the Fall

Man was created to manage/govern creation.

- Man would no longer use creation to please God.
- Man would now use all things to please himself.

God had seen from eternity past perfect submission within the Trinity. Now, He sees His own image killing and forcing authority.

Government: After the Fall

- Violence characterized the world.
 - Violence characterizes areas of the world today. It does not characterize the entire earth.
 - Why so violent? There was nothing that stood against or restrained the wickedness of mankind.
- To restrain violence, God would give man authority over other men (Gen 9:5-6).

Government: After the Fall

“And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image”

— Genesis 9:5-6.

- Implies a structure of authority to carry out “a reckoning”

The Authority of Government

Prior to the Flood

- Authority to govern the land, the sea, and the animals in ways pleasing to God.

The Authority of Government

After the Flood

- Authority to govern the land, the sea, and the animals in ways pleasing to God.
- Authority to govern men and women in order to restrain sin.

Biblical Purpose of Government

Government is the institution that God has ordained to manage creation *and* to provide order by restraining evil.

- Ex: Authority to manage water, to care for wildlife, or to oversee the use of federal land.
- Ex: Authority to enforce contracts, to investigate fraud, to ensure honest trading, to prosecute.

God Establishes Spheres of Authority

Government

Church

Commerce

Family

Biblical Purpose of Government

Government needs to be big enough to have an *appropriate* authority in each sphere.

- Too small, and it lacks the force to restrain evil.
Ex: Czarist Russia (1917).
- Too large, and it becomes evil itself.
Ex: Communist Russia (1922-1991).

Biblical Purpose of Government

- God ordained government to manage creation and to provide order by restraining evil.
- Government has the authority to act within its God-given sphere and purpose.
- Government is not a necessary evil but a good. It is necessary for some measure of prosperity and peace in a fallen world.