

The Attackers: Jesus Christ Controls History: Direct Control over Human History through the Function of His Divine Attributes: Ps 93:1–2; Rom 13:1b; John 19:10–11a; Indirect Control through the Function of the Laws of Divine Establishment, Rom 13:1–7; through the Hostility of Mankind

JESUS CHRIST CONTROLS HISTORY

I. Jesus Christ has direct control over human history through the function of His divine attributes:

Psalm 93:1 - The Lord reigns [**sovereignty**], He is clothed with majesty [**integrity: righteousness and justice**]; the Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength [**omnipotence**]; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved [**immutability**].

v. 2 - Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting [**eternal life**].

1. The Christian is able to grasp the principle that Jesus Christ is his Creator and as such is his supreme Authority. As Creator, the Lord is in control over all He chose to bring into existence. He is a God of order and will through His attributes either maintain or regain it.
2. The Lord created the nations in Genesis 11 and it is He who controls them and determines to whom authority over them is given:

Romans 13:1b - There is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

1. The ultimate example of this principle is provided by our Lord in this exchange with Pilate:

John 19:10 - So Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

v. 11a - Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given to you from above.”

2. Thus we see that the Lord in creating nations allowed the free will of men to place certain people in positions of authority, however, even these decisions must meet the final approval of Jesus Christ who controls history by means of establishment principles.

II. Jesus Christ has indirect control of history through the function of the laws of divine establishment.

1. Mankind chooses to manage group discipline through various forms of government. Some allow themselves to be controlled by tyrants and dictators while others choose to rule themselves through elected representatives, which is a republic not a democracy.¹
2. When our Founders decided to “ordain and establish” a new form of government, they were wise enough to use precise language in their writing of the Declaration.² Insight into their precise choice of words is provided by Russell Kirk:

¹ Article IV, Section 4, of the Constitution requires that “the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government” (*Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church* [St. Charles, MO: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011], 70).

² “WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed,

The Declaration's word is "government"—not "state." Eighteenth-century writers made a clear distinction between the two. "Government" implied the temporary possessors of power and their current political policies: whether the king dismissed his ministers and chose new ones, a new "government" was formed. "State," on the other hand, meant what today we tend to call "society"—the established civil social order, permanent in character, with some sort of enduring constitution. The Declaration spoke of instituting "new Government," not of overthrowing the state itself, or the social order. That is another aspect of the moderation of the American "revolutionaries": they argued that *governments* might be altered or abolished, but contemplated no pulling down of fundamental institutions and ways of life.³

3. The Lord's indirect control puts the onus on human authorities. They gave responsibility to the people and the people are commanded to submit to their leadership. When both submit to the basic principles of civil order then the nation will be blessed. If they do not, then it will be disciplined.

4. The principles of indirect control are the subject of Paul's instructions in:

Romans 13:1 - All mankind: subordinate yourselves to governing authorities. For there is no authority except delegated by God, and those which do exist have been delegated by God [compare John 19:10-11a].

v. 2 - Therefore, those who resist duly appointed authority have opposed the ordinance of God; in fact, those who oppose shall receive punishment on themselves.

v. 3 - For governmental authorities are not a cause of fear for good behavior but for evil behavior. Do you desire not to fear the authority? Keep on doing good and you will have recognition from it;

v. 4 - for he is a minister of God to you for the purpose of good. But if you do what is evil keep on being afraid for he does not bear the sword for nothing; for he is the minister of God for the purpose of divine wrath to him who practices evil.

v. 5 - For this reason it is necessary to be subordinate to governing authorities, not only because of punishment, but also because of the conscience.

v. 6 - So for this reason also keep on paying taxes, for you see they are public servants of God for them who make a career out of this same thing.

v. 7 - Therefore, discharge your obligations to all: to whom taxes, pay taxes; to whom custom duties, pay custom duties; to whom respect, pay respect; to whom honor, pay honor.

5. The question always arises about those who misuse governmental authority and why the Lord would "delegate authority" to tyrants and dictators.

6. PRINCIPLE: In human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree.

III. **Jesus Christ controls history through the hostility of mankind.**

that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute **new government** ..." ("The Declaration of Independence," in *Forty Proclamations*, 49).

³ Russell Kirk, *The Roots of American Order*, (La Salle, Ill.: Open Court, 1974), 411.

1. It is a general principle that people deserve the leadership they have. Poor leadership results when the people allow tyrants to gain power.
2. Tyrants and dictators acquire governmental authority either by means of political power, or by subterfuge and deception by means of the lie.
3. PRINCIPLE: People who are not able to discern the lie are destined to be ruled by it. This occurs when the lie is presented as a solution to all the peoples' problems and a curative for all their ills.