

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

A Model For Secession

Study Guide

Civil Government

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

A Model For Secession

Part One of Two

September 06, 2015

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22.

Major Themes

Secession as Peaceful Withdrawal

Secession is a lawful, peaceful separation from a corrupt government, not a violent revolution.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Secession is not revolution. Secession is not taking up arms. Secession is a peaceful, lawful, legal means of separation.'

Spiritual Corruption as Root Cause

Abandoning God and His Word leads to corruption in all institutions, including government.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'Spiritual corruption is always the starting point. Men are covenantal creatures. Whenever we leave God and His Law... we corrupt everything.'

Connection Between Spiritual and Civil Corruption

Spiritual apostasy inevitably results in civil tyranny and loss of freedom.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'Spiritual corruption always leads to civil corruption. You cannot have one without the other.'

Tyrants' Self-Interest

Rulers who abandon God act out of self-preservation, not concern for the people.

Lecture support: Weaver notes Jeroboam's fear: 'If this people go up to do sacrifice... they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam.'

Necessity of Repentance for True Change

Secession or political change without repentance and return to God is futile.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'Change without repentance is worthless... We need repentance.'

Liberty Comes from God

True freedom is found where God's Spirit is present and His Word is obeyed.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Corinthians 3:17: 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.'

Key Arguments

Secession is a lawful right, not rebellion

States created the federal government and do not need permission to secede; secession is peaceful withdrawal.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'The states are the masters, and the federal government is the servant... Masters do not seek permission from servants to act.'

Spiritual corruption always precedes civil corruption

When leaders and people abandon God, tyranny and loss of freedom follow inevitably.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Whenever there is an apostasy in the spiritual realm, there is going to be an apostasy in the civil realm.'

Government-ordained religion leads to tyranny

Jeroboam's golden calves were a means to control the people and secure his power.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'It was by means of and through the installation of this pagan idolatrous religion that he sought to control and subjugate and dominate his people.'

Without the fear of God, rulers have no regard for man

When leaders do not fear God, they become unjust and oppressive.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 2 Samuel 23:3: 'He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.'

Secession must be grounded in return to biblical truth

Any new government not founded on obedience to God will fail, as Jeroboam's did.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'If a people that do secede do not turn back to Biblical truth, their secession is going to prove absolutely fatal.'

Repentance is required for national healing

2 Chronicles 7:14 requires turning from wicked ways, not just prayer.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes: 'If there is no turning from our wicked ways, God is not going to hear us.'

Scripture References

1 Kings 12:1-19

The account of Rehoboam's harsh answer and Israel's secession.

1 Kings 11:1-10

Solomon's idolatry and spiritual corruption.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

1 Kings 12:25-33

Jeroboam's establishment of idolatrous worship.

John 11:46-48

Pharisees fear losing their place and nation because of Jesus.

2 Samuel 23:1-3

David's last words: rulers must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

1 Kings 11:26-40

Jeroboam's rise and Solomon's attempt to kill him.

1 Samuel 20:30-31

Saul's anger at Jonathan for protecting David, illustrating a tyrant's self-interest.

1 Kings 11:37-39

God's promise to Jeroboam if he obeys.

1 Kings 14:7-11

God's judgment on Jeroboam for his idolatry.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Conditional promise of healing if God's people humble themselves, pray, and turn from wicked ways.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the biblical account of Israel's division under Rehoboam illustrate the principles of secession?

Consider: Weaver uses 1 Kings 12 as a model for secession.

2. What is the difference between secession and revolution, and why is that distinction important?

Consider: Weaver defines secession as peaceful and lawful.

3. In what ways does spiritual corruption lead to civil corruption, according to Weaver?

Consider: Weaver argues that abandoning God results in tyranny.

4. How did Jeroboam's establishment of idolatry serve his political purposes?

Consider: Weaver explains Jeroboam's fear of losing power.

5. Why does Weaver insist that secession must be grounded in a return to biblical truth?

Consider: He warns that humanistic replacement will fail.

6. What role does repentance play in national healing, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14?

Consider: Weaver stresses turning from wicked ways, not just prayer.

7. How does the example of Solomon's persecution of Jeroboam illustrate the nature of tyranny?

Consider: Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam for being chosen by God.

8. What does Weaver mean when he says 'the states are the masters, and the federal government is the servant'?

Consider: He argues states created the federal government and retain authority.

Applications

Recognize the signs of spiritual and civil corruption

Believers should be aware of how apostasy in the church and government leads to tyranny.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'Whenever there is an apostasy in the spiritual realm, there is going to be an apostasy in the civil realm.'

Understand secession as a lawful option

Secession is a peaceful, legal means of withdrawing from a corrupt government, not rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Secession is a peaceful, lawful, legal means of separation.'

Prioritize repentance and return to God

Any political change must be founded on repentance and obedience to God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'Change without repentance is worthless.'

Teach biblical truth to the next generation

Older believers must pass on truth to young people who have not heard it.

Lecture support: Weaver laments: 'Many of our young people have never heard truth.'

Pray for a heart of repentance, not just national blessing

Use 2 Chronicles 7:14 as a call to turn from wicked ways, not as a mere formula.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'If there is no turning from our wicked ways, God is not going to hear us.'

Evaluate leaders by their fear of God

Rulers who do not fear God will have no regard for people.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes: 'He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - A Model For Secession

Part Two of Two

September 06, 2015

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-42.

Major Themes

Spiritual Corruption Precedes Civil Corruption

Civil tyranny is the result of rejecting God's sovereignty and law.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It's impossible to have civil corruption without first having spiritual corruption.'

Secession as a Biblical Response to Tyranny

Secession is a lawful means to escape oppressive government, modeled in 1 Kings 12.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Secession is a lawful, legitimate means to prevent oppression, tyranny, and subjugation.'

The Necessity of Confrontation and Separation

Confronting rulers and separating from evil are necessary steps when government becomes tyrannical.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'Alienation always leads to separation... Governments are no exception.'

Obedience to God Over Man

Believers must obey God rather than men, even when it requires secession from ungodly systems.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Acts 5:29, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'

Personal and Practical Secession

Secession begins in the heart and mind, and can be practiced individually through self-sufficiency and separation from corrupt systems.

Lecture support: Weaver shares Jeff Deist's advice: 'Secession begins at home... secede from dependency.'

Key Arguments

Tyranny stems from denying God's law

A tyrant is one who rejects God's sovereignty and boundaries, as seen in Psalm 2 and Hosea 5:10.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Tyranny begins when God's sovereign law word is denied and man comes to believe that he has replaced God.'

Secession is not rebellion but resistance

Rebellion can only be against lawful authority; resisting a tyrant is obedience to God.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'Rebellion can only be to lawful authority. Where there is no lawful authority it is not rebellion, it is merely resistance.'

The steps of secession in 1 Kings 12

The process includes confrontation, solicitation, consultation, alienation, and separation.

Lecture support: Weaver outlines the means: 'First of all... was confrontation... secondly... solicitation... thirdly... consultation... alienation... separation.'

Historical precedent for secession in America

Northern states threatened secession multiple times before the South, showing secession is not uniquely Southern.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Prior to 1860 and 1861, all of the secession movements were in the North.'

Violence is initiated by tyrants

Rehoboam sent Adoram to collect taxes from a seceded people, leading to violence; similarly, Lincoln insisted on taxing the South.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Violence was initiated by the tyrant... Rehoboam insisted that he had the right to collect taxes from a people who had seceded.'

Scripture References

1 Kings 12:1-19

The primary text for the sermon, detailing the secession of Israel from Rehoboam.

1 Samuel 15:10-11

God rejected Saul as king because he turned from following God's commandments, illustrating spiritual corruption leading to tyranny.

Psalms 2:1-3

Describes rulers who rebel against God's authority, defining the heart of a tyrant.

Hosea 5:10

Princes of Judah removed boundaries, showing rejection of God's limitations.

Luke 18:4

The unjust judge feared not God nor regarded man, exemplifying spiritual corruption.

2 Chronicles 19:2

Jehoshaphat was rebuked for helping the ungodly, showing the danger of supporting corrupt rulers.

Hosea 5:11

Ephraim was oppressed because they willingly walked after man's commandment.

2 Kings 17:7-8, 19

Israel and Judah walked in statutes of heathen and kings, leading to judgment.

1 Kings 11:28

Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor, appointed by Solomon before fleeing to Egypt.

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together except they be agreed? Used to support the necessity of separation.

2 Kings 1:1; 3:5

Moab rebelled against Israel after Ahab's death; the same Hebrew word *pasha* is used, showing it can mean resistance to tyranny.

Proverbs 1:10-16

Warning not to consent to sinners or walk in their ways; a call to separation.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Command to come out from among unbelievers and be separate.

Ephesians 6:10-18

The armor of God, indicating believers are to fight spiritual battles.

Acts 5:29

We ought to obey God rather than men, the ultimate principle for secession.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. How does spiritual corruption inevitably lead to civil corruption, and what are modern examples?

Consider: Weaver argues that civil tyranny is the fruit of spiritual decline.

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2. In what ways can Christians today confront ungodly rulers without sinning?

Consider: The sermon highlights confrontation as a necessary step, as Jeroboam did.

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3. What does it mean for a ruler to be a 'servant' of the people, and how does this contrast with modern government?

Consider: The old men advised Rehoboam to be a servant (ebed), a biblical concept of public service.

4. How should believers balance submission to government (Romans 13) with the call to separate from evil (2 Corinthians 6)?

Consider: Weaver cites 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 to support separation from ungodly systems.

5. What practical steps of personal secession can you take in your own life?

Consider: Jeff Deist's suggestions include homeschooling, financial independence, and media discernment.

6. Is violence ever justified in resisting tyranny, and how does the armor of God passage inform our response?

Consider: Weaver notes violence was initiated by the tyrant, but believers are equipped for spiritual battle.

Applications

Examine your heart for spiritual corruption

Recognize that civil problems stem from personal and national rejection of God's law; repent and align with Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It's impossible to have civil corruption without first having spiritual corruption.'

Confront ungodly authority biblically

When rulers act tyrannically, believers should respectfully but firmly confront them, as Jeroboam did.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There is never an inappropriate time to discuss liberty, freedom and responsibility with those who are ruling over you.'

Practice personal secession

Take practical steps to reduce dependence on ungodly systems: homeschool, seek financial independence, and separate from corrupt media.

Lecture support: Weaver shares Jeff Deist's advice: 'Secede from dependency... secede from state control of your children by homeschooling them.'

Obey God rather than men

When human laws conflict with God's commands, choose obedience to God, even at personal cost.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Acts 5:29, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'

Put on the whole armor of God

Recognize the spiritual nature of the battle against tyranny and equip yourself with truth, righteousness, faith, and the Word.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Ephesians 6:10-18 and asks, 'If God did not intend for us to fight... why did he give us all this armor?'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: A Model For Secession - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01400

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01400&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - A Model For Secession - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01401

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01401&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.