WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

The Evil Power of Government

Study Guide

Civil Government

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

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 October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

The Evil Power of Government

Part One

November 30, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

God's Sovereignty Over All Power

All power belongs to God; He delegates authority to human institutions. God sets up and removes rulers according to His will.

Lecture support: Psalm 62:11, Psalm 66:7, Daniel 2:21, Daniel 4:25, Romans 13:1-2 are cited to show God's ultimate authority.

Limited, Delegated Authority of Civil Government

Civil government is ordained by God solely for justice: protecting the righteous and punishing evildoers. It must not exceed this sphere.

Lecture support: Romans 13:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:14 are used to define the God-given purpose of civil rulers.

Tyranny as Unlawful Use of Power

When government leaves its ordained function, it becomes tyrannical and may be lawfully resisted. Tyranny is not ordained by God.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Romans 13 that resisting a tyrannical government is not resisting God's ordinance, and cites Psalm 94:20-21.

The Danger of Acquiescing to Evil Government

Governments that transgress God's law do not immediately lose power, but that power becomes evil and destructive to the people.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the analogy of an abusive husband to illustrate that authority can become evil without ceasing to exist.

Jeroboam's Politically Correct Religion as a Model of Statism

Jeroboam established a state religion for his own political preservation, turning people from true worship. This parallels modern government's promotion of statism.

Lecture support: 1 Kings 12:25-33 is analyzed to show Jeroboam's motives and methods, with direct application to contemporary American politics.

Deception of Government Benevolence

Tyrants claim to act for the people's good while serving themselves. Jeroboam said 'It is too much for you to go to Jerusalem' to mask his self-interest.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 Kings 12:28 and compares it to modern political rhetoric about government care.

Key Arguments

Power is a neutral tool; corruption lies in the user

Power itself is not corrupt; corrupt people misuse power. The problem is the abuse of authority, not authority itself.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the hammer analogy: a hammer can build a house or bludgeon someone; the tool is not the problem.

Civil government's only biblical mandate is justice

God never ordained civil government for education, welfare, or economics. Its sole purpose is to punish evil and praise good.

Lecture support: Romans 13:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:14 are cited; Weaver notes that loss of life and liberty are not 'good' as defined in Romans 13:4.

Tyrannical government is not God's ordinance and may be resisted

When government ceases to function as God ordained, it is no longer the ordinance of God and may be lawfully resisted.

Lecture support: Weaver argues that God does not require submission to abusive authority in family, church, or state, and cites Psalm 94:20-21.

Jeroboam's idolatry was a deliberate political strategy

Jeroboam took counsel to create a state religion to secure his throne, not for the people's benefit. He rejected God's promise.

Lecture support: 1 Kings 12:26-28 shows Jeroboam's fear of losing power and his consultation with advisors; 1 Kings 11:38 shows God's promise he ignored.

Modern American government mirrors Jeroboam's tactics

Like Jeroboam, modern politicians promote a politically correct religion of statism, subsidize sin, and turn people from biblical foundations.

Lecture support: Weaver cites the suppression of politically incorrect speech, government subsidization of sodomy and abortion, and the removal of Christian heritage from education.

Government lawlessness breeds anarchy

When government becomes a lawbreaker, it teaches contempt for law and invites every man to become a law unto himself.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Olmstead v. United States: 'If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law... it invites anarchy.'

Scripture References

1 Kings 14:16

Text for the sermon: God gave Israel up because of Jeroboam's sins, who made Israel sin.

Psalm 62:11

Cited to show that power belongs to God.

Psalm 66:7

God rules by His power forever; His eyes behold the nations.

Psalm 75:6-7

Promotion comes from God; He puts down one and sets up another.

Daniel 2:20-21

God changes times and seasons; He removes and sets up kings.

Daniel 4:25

The Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will.

Romans 13:1-2

All power is ordained of God; resisting power resists God's ordinance.

Romans 13:3-4

Rulers are a terror to evil, not good; they are God's ministers for good, bearing the sword to execute wrath on evildoers.

1 Peter 2:14

Civil government is for punishment of evildoers and praise of those who do well.

Psalm 94:20-21

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with God, which frames mischief by law? They condemn innocent blood.

Hosea 5:10

Princes of Judah removed the bounds; God will pour out His wrath like water.

1 Kings 15:26

Nadab walked in the sin of Jeroboam, who made Israel to sin.

1 Kings 15:30

Because of Jeroboam's sins which he made Israel sin.

1 Kings 15:34

Baasha walked in the way of Jeroboam and his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

1 Kings 16:2

Baasha made Israel to sin, provoking God to anger.

1 Kings 16:13

Sins of Baasha and Elah by which they made Israel to sin.

1 Kings 16:26

Omri walked in the way of Jeroboam and his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

2 Kings 10:29

Jehu departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, who made Israel to sin.

2 Kings 10:31

Jehu took no heed to walk in God's law; he departed not from Jeroboam's sins.

2 Kings 17:20-21

Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them sin a great sin.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding that all power belongs to God and is delegated affect our view of civil government?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes God's sovereignty over all authority (Psalm 75:6-7, Daniel 2:21).

2. What are the biblical limits of civil government, and how do we recognize when it has become tyrannical?

Consider: Romans 13:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:14 define government's role; Weaver argues that exceeding this role makes it resistible.

3. In what ways might modern governments use 'lawful power unlawfully,' as Jeroboam did?

Consider: Weaver defines a tyrant as one who uses lawful power unlawfully and applies this to contemporary politics.

4. How did Jeroboam's politically correct religion serve his own interests rather than the people's?

Consider: 1 Kings 12:26-28 reveals Jeroboam's fear of losing power and his manipulation of worship for political control.

5. What parallels can be drawn between Jeroboam's golden calves and modern state-endorsed ideologies?

Consider: Weaver compares Jeroboam's idolatry to government promotion of statism, abortion, and sodomy.

6. Why is it significant that Jeroboam placed a calf in Dan, where idolatry already existed?

Consider: Judges 18:30-31 shows Dan's history of idolatry; Weaver suggests Jeroboam exploited existing sin.

7. How does government lawlessness 'invite anarchy,' and what is the Christian's response?

Consider: Weaver quotes Olmstead v. United States on the contagious nature of government crime.

Applications

Recognize the limits of civil government

Christians must understand that civil government is ordained only for justice, not for education, welfare, or economics, and resist its overreach.

Lecture support: Weaver states that government leaving its sphere ceases to be God's ordinance and may be lawfully resisted.

Discern politically correct state religion

Believers should identify and reject state-promoted ideologies that turn people from biblical truth, just as Jeroboam's calves turned Israel from God.

Lecture support: Weaver warns that modern statism subsidizes sin and suppresses Christian heritage.

Do not trust government benevolence

Christians should be wary of political promises of care and provision, recognizing that tyrants serve themselves, not the people.

Lecture support: Weaver parallels Jeroboam's 'It is too much for you' with modern rhetoric: 'Trust me, we'll take care of you.'

Teach biblical foundations to the next generation

Parents must actively teach children the Christian heritage of America, as government schools have removed it.

Lecture support: Weaver laments that school children are taught nothing of America's biblical foundations.

Resist government lawlessness

When government becomes a lawbreaker, Christians must not acquiesce but uphold God's law as the standard.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes the Supreme Court on the danger of government lawlessness and implies the need for resistance.

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 - The Evil Power of Government

Part Two of Two

November 30, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-39 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

The Evil Power of Government When It Departs from God's Ordinance

Government that ceases to function according to God's design becomes an evil power that can be resisted, as seen in Jeroboam's reign.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'whenever government ceases to function according to the ordinance of God, it ceases to be the ordinance of God, and therefore it becomes resistible.'

Politically Correct Religion as a Tool of Self-Preservation

Jeroboam created a state religion to secure his own power, not for truth or the people's good, mirroring modern political correctness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'this politically correct religion that Jeroboam set up was not about truth... It was all about Jeroboam.'

The Rise of the Provider Government

Jeroboam pretended concern for the people's welfare to institute a provider state, paralleling today's unlimited government welfare and corporate bailouts.

Lecture support: Weaver notes Jeroboam said, 'It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem,' and then lists modern welfare and bailout figures.

Government Control Over Religion and the Denial of Christ's Lordship

Jeroboam made himself head of religion, appointing priests and changing worship, a pattern seen in Rome's emperor cult and Henry VIII's Anglican Church.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'he has dethroned God and enthroned himself' and that Christians were killed for refusing to say 'Caesar is Lord.'

Persecution of True Believers and the Reduction of Religion

Jeroboam drove out faithful priests and Levites, made priesthood available to anyone, and reduced religion to the lowest common denominator.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Chronicles 11:13-14 and 13:9, showing Jeroboam cast out the true priests and made priests of anyone who paid.

The Danger of Trusting in Human Rulers

Even good kings can abuse power, and the Bible warns against putting confidence in princes; trust should be in the Lord alone.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 118:8-9 and gives examples of Asa and Uzziah abusing power.

Divine Judgment on Wicked Governments and False Religions

All Jeroboams and their false religions will be completely destroyed, as prophesied and fulfilled in Josiah's reforms and the fall of wicked kings.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 2 Kings 23:15-16 and 2 Chronicles 24:23-24, showing the destruction of altars and kingdoms.

The Consequences of Hating Christ: Death Individually and Nationally

Those who hate Jesus Christ love death, a principle that applies to individuals, societies, and nations that forsake God.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Proverbs 8:35-36 and applies it to societal and national death without God.

Key Arguments

Government Becomes Resistible When It Violates God's Ordinance

When government ceases to function as God ordained, it loses divine sanction and can be resisted, as the apostles did in Acts 5:29.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'whenever government ceases to function according to the ordinance of God, it ceases to be the ordinance of God, and therefore it becomes resistible.'

Jeroboam's Religion Was Self-Serving, Not Truth-Oriented

Jeroboam's politically correct religion was designed solely to preserve his own power, not to honor God or benefit the people.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Everything that Jeroboam did... he did for his person, his life, his power, his kingdom, everything was for his benefit.'

Modern Government Mirrors Jeroboam's Provider State

Today's unlimited government, with its welfare programs and corporate bailouts, parallels Jeroboam's claim that it was 'too much' for people to go to Jerusalem.

Lecture support: Weaver lists trillions in bank bailouts and various welfare programs, calling it a 'provider government.'

Government Appointment of Religious Leaders Leads to Corruption

When the state appoints and pays priests, they become obligated to the king and promote submission, as seen in Jeroboam's day and with modern statist preachers.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'He paid their wages. Therefore, they were obligated to him for their power, their position, and profit.'

The King as Head of Church Denies Christ's Lordship

Jeroboam's assumption of the chief priest role prefigures later rulers who claimed headship over church and state, leading to persecution of true Christians.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'he has dethroned God and enthroned himself' and cites Henry VIII and the Roman emperor cult.

Persecution Is Inevitable When Government Controls Religion

Jeroboam drove out true priests and made it easy to follow his religion while making it difficult to follow God, a pattern repeated in history.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 2 Chronicles 11:13-14, showing Jeroboam cast out the priests and Levites.

Even Good Rulers Can Abuse Power and Lead People Astray

Examples like Asa and Uzziah show that decent kings can still sin and oppress people, reinforcing the need to trust God over man.

Lecture support: Weaver recounts Asa imprisoning the prophet and oppressing people, and Uzziah being struck with leprosy.

All Wicked Governments and False Religions Will Be Destroyed

Scripture shows that God will overthrow all Jeroboams and their altars, as Josiah did, and that nations forsaking God will be ruined.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 2 Kings 23:15-16 and 2 Chronicles 24:23-24 about the destruction of altars and kingdoms.

Scripture References

1 Kings 14:16

Weaver introduces the message by reading this verse about God giving Israel up because of Jeroboam's sins.

1 Kings 12:25-33

Weaver reads the account of Jeroboam building Shechem, making golden calves, appointing priests, and ordaining a feast.

Acts 5:29

Weaver cites the apostles' response to obey God rather than men when government commands violation of God's law.

Psalm 94:20-21

Weaver references this psalm to show that government becomes the enemy of God when it ceases to function as ordained.

Hosea 8:11

Weaver quotes this verse to show that God counted Jeroboam's many altars as sin.

Amos 7:12-13

Weaver reads about Amaziah telling Amos not to prophesy at Bethel because it is the king's chapel and court.

2 Chronicles 11:13-17

Weaver reads how the priests and Levites left Israel for Judah because Jeroboam cast them off from executing the priest's office.

2 Chronicles 13:9

Weaver reads the question about casting out the priests of the Lord and making priests of anyone who paid.

2 Chronicles 25:14-16

Weaver reads about Amaziah bringing back foreign gods and rebuking the prophet who warned him.

2 Chronicles 11:17; 12:1

Weaver reads that Rehoboam and Judah walked in the way of David for three years, then forsook the law of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 16:7-10

Weaver reads about Asa imprisoning the prophet Hanani and oppressing some of the people.

Psalm 118:8-9

Weaver quotes these verses as the center of the Bible, emphasizing trust in the Lord over confidence in man or princes.

2 Chronicles 33:9

Weaver reads that Manasseh made Judah do worse than the heathen whom the Lord had destroyed.

2 Chronicles 27:1-2

Weaver reads that Jotham did right but did not enter the temple, and the people did yet corruptly.

2 Kings 23:15-16

Weaver reads about Josiah breaking down Jeroboam's altar at Bethel and burning bones on it to pollute it.

2 Chronicles 24:23-24

Weaver reads about the Syrian army destroying Judah's princes because they had forsaken the Lord.

2 Chronicles 28:19-23

Weaver reads about Ahaz's transgressions and how the gods of Damascus became his ruin.

Proverbs 8:35-36

Weaver quotes these verses to show that finding Christ is life, but hating Him is loving death.

Discussion Questions

1. According to Weaver, when does government become resistible, and what biblical example does he use to support this?

Consider: Weaver argues that government becomes resistible when it ceases to function according to God's ordinance, citing Acts 5:29.

2. How did Jeroboam's politically correct religion serve his own interests rather than the people's?

Consider: Weaver explains that Jeroboam's religion was designed to prevent the people from returning to Rehoboam and to secure his own power.

3. In what ways does Weaver see modern government mirroring Jeroboam's provider state?

Consider: Weaver lists corporate bailouts and welfare programs as examples of today's unlimited provider government.

4. What does Weaver mean by 'statist preachers,' and how does he connect them to Jeroboam's appointed priests?

Consider: Weaver describes preachers trained by the government to promote unlimited submission, similar to Jeroboam's paid priests.

5. How does the Roman emperor cult illustrate the conflict between Christ's Lordship and state religion?

Consider: Weaver explains that Christians were killed for refusing to say 'Caesar is Lord,' affirming Jesus Christ as Lord instead.

6. What warning did James Madison give about the general welfare clause, and how does Weaver apply it today?

Consider: Weaver quotes Madison's warning that Congress could use the clause to control religion, education, and welfare, subverting limited government.

7. According to Weaver, what are the eight ways Jeroboam made Israel sin, and how do they apply to modern government?

Consider: Weaver summarizes how Jeroboam removed Israel's foundation, changed worship, and persecuted believers, drawing parallels to today.

8. What does Weaver say is the ultimate fate of all Jeroboams and their false religions?

Consider: Weaver points to Josiah's destruction of Jeroboam's altar and the fall of wicked kings as evidence that God will overthrow them.

Applications

Resist Government When It Commands Sin

Believers must obey God rather than men when civil government commands what violates God's law, following the example of the apostles.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'we are responsible, according to Acts 5 and verse 29, to do what the apostles did... We ought to obey God rather than men.'

Discern Politicians by Their Actions, Not Words

Christians should not be deceived by politicians who claim to be Christian but enact anti-Christian policies; watch what they do, not what they say.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'Never listen to what a politician says. Watch what he does.'

Trust in the Lord, Not in Human Rulers

The center verse of the Bible teaches that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man or princes.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 118:8-9 and says, 'Anytime you put confidence in man, you're going to be disappointed.'

Remain Faithful Despite Persecution

Like the priests and Levites who fled to Judah, believers must be willing to leave behind possessions and positions to remain faithful to God.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that the Levites 'left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem' because Jeroboam cast them off.

Recognize the Danger of Government-Controlled Religion

When civil government claims authority over religion, it always reduces faith to the lowest common denominator and persecutes true believers.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Anytime civil government claims the right and the power to control religion... it will always be reduced to the lowest common denominator.'

Understand That National Apostasy Leads to Destruction

A nation that forsakes God and His laws will face ruin, as seen in the destruction of Israel and Judah's kingdoms.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 2 Chronicles 24:23-24 and says, 'What happened to the kingdoms of those who forsake God? They're destroyed.'

Love Christ and Find Life

Individuals and nations that hate Jesus Christ love death, but those who find Him find life and favor with God.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Proverbs 8:35-36 and applies it: 'All that hate Jesus Christ love death... Our nation will die without God, without His laws.'

Study notes

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: The Evil Power of Government - Part One

Lecture JW01326

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01326&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - The Evil Power of Government - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01327

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01327&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.