

Government

# Context

- We are establishing a new style of church government
- Patterned after heaven
- We are being called to administer & legislate
- Take responsibility and be accountable

- Operate from heaven to earth
- Rule
- But, do we understand how to be governmental?

# Government has a bad name

- The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.  
Winston Churchill
- The most terrifying words in the English language are:  
I'm from the government and I'm here to help.  
Ronald Reagan
- Everything government touches turns to crap.  
Ringo Starr

Or does it?

- The best government is that which teaches us to govern ourselves.      Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- The government is us; we are the government, you and I.      Theodore Roosevelt

# What do we need to know?

- Understand what government is
  - Purpose
  - Structure
  - Operation
- What we are called to do – collectively
- Our part in it - Individually

# What does God say about government?

- Every ruling authority that exists has been established by God (Rom. 13:1–2).
- Human government is a derived authority - mandated.
- Those in authority are described as “the servant[s] of God” (Rom. 13:4) and “ministers of God” (Rom. 13:6).

## Two Key principles

- Government is for the good of all people
- Government is meant to reflect His glory



# What is the purpose of government?

- Rule – to control, be in charge
- Leadership – provide direction
- Legislation – make laws to govern society
- Administration – manage operations

- Order – how things are arranged in relation to each other
- Enforcement – to make sure laws are obeyed
- Defence – protecting its citizenry
- Accountability – responsible for actions

# How do governments work?

- Mandate to rule - Sovereignty
- Authority - the extent and bounds of its powers
- Jurisdiction – the country, people or thing to which that authority applies
- Powers – taxation, defence, legislation

- Constitution – framework
  - Structure of government
  - Procedures – for exercising its powers
  - Duties – to its citizenry
- Blueprint/plan/manifesto
- Functions & administrations – practical stuff

# Example – UK Government

- Monarch – largely figurehead but technically bestows the mandate
- UK Parliament – 650 elected MP's - Party with most MP's forms Government
- Government is run by the Prime Minister & Cabinet Office – 21 Ministries with Cabinet Ministers
- Administered through the Civil Service – 90 governmental functions
- Local Government - 433 local authorities

# How does it work?

- Government is too big to be done in one piece – Specialist Dept's
- Defined Role & Function within the whole e.g. Defence, Education, Health, Justice, Business & Innovation, Treasury
- Authority over its own area - jurisdiction
- Uses resources allocated (by Treasury)
- But, each delivering part of the overall manifesto

# Why is this relevant?

- We are forming a new Government
- We need to understand governmental principles
- All mountains & their benches are a part of government
- We need to understand the blueprint, the role of our mountain, and our role on a bench

# All for one...

- Romans 12 <sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- So, mountains need to cooperate and do their part, which facilitates others to do their part.
- But it all checks and balances back to the blueprint



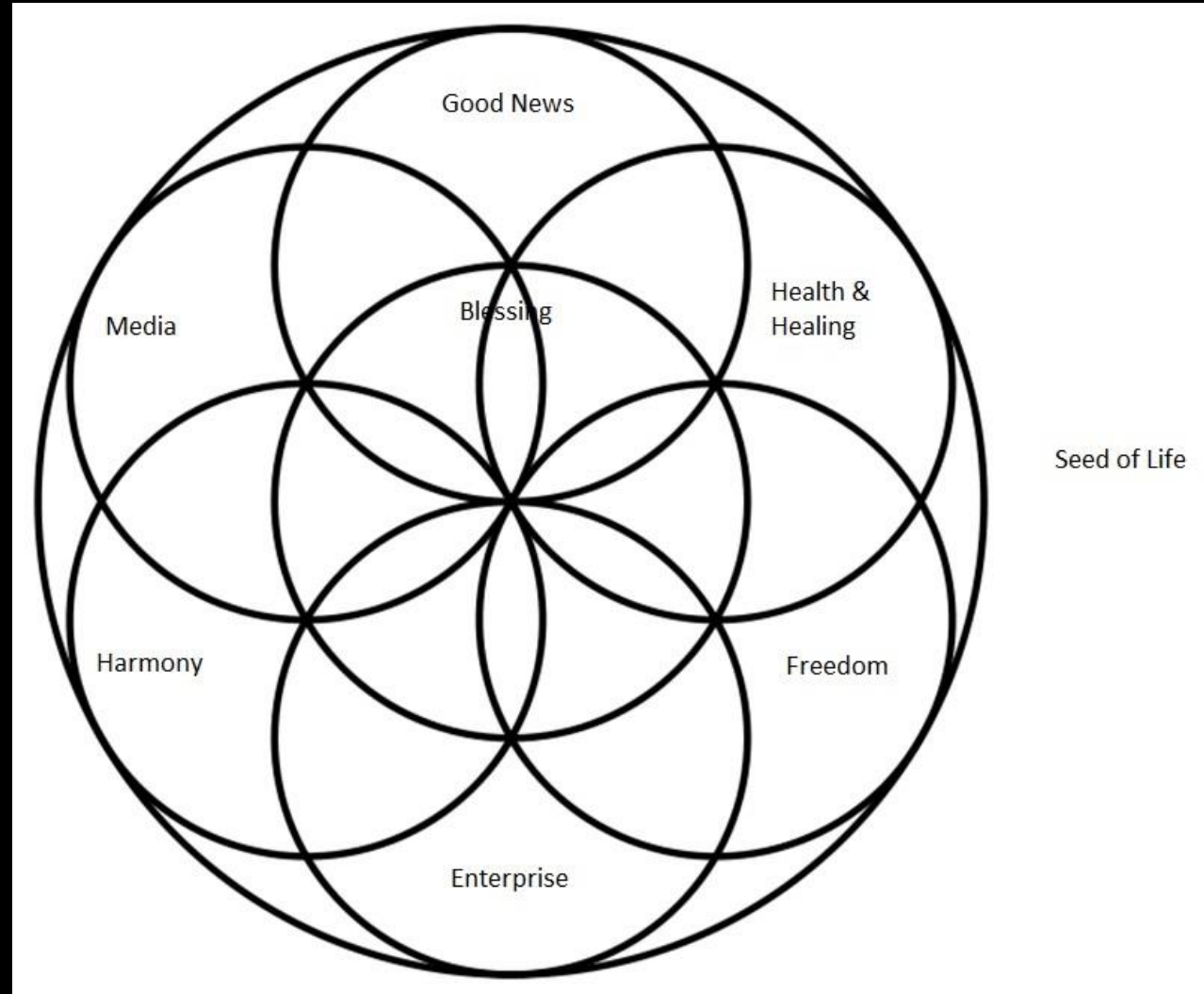
# Our church government - overview

- Mandate – Joshua Generation, Cities of Refuge/Embassies of Heaven
- Structure
  - Benches – 3, 7 & 12
  - Mountains – places of authority
  - Shalom Ministries
- Blueprint
- Administrations & Functions

# Being governmental – as Benches

- Mandate / Authority of the bench or mountain
  - What is the extent or bounds of that authority
  - Understand its context (Joshua Generation, city of refuge)
- Function
  - What it is created to do
  - Unique and specific
  - Where are the touch points, common areas?

# Mountain touch points



# Being governmental – as Benches

- Jurisdiction
  - What area, people or things do we have authority over, what do we not?
- Administration – using resources to deliver the mandate
  - Earthly resources – people, things
  - Heavenly – angels, laws, weapons
- Co-operation – remember we are one body
- Accountability – to the 12

# Understanding Authority, Function & Jurisdiction

- Example – Justice & Education

- MoJ has identified children of troubled families have a higher than average risk of turning to crime. They believe interventions in primary schools would be effective in reducing risk of future offending. They want to run restorative justice education programmes in primary schools to reduce future crime.

- Do they have a Mandate?

- Do they have a Function?

- Do they have Jurisdiction?

# Being governmental - Individual

- Representing & carrying
  - Ambassadors of the Kingdom
  - Aware of the big picture – carry the blueprint
  - To serve, not be served
- Implementing & Outworking
  - Heaven to Earth
  - In relationship – with, not doing to
  - Releasing others to destiny

# Being governmental - Individual

- Understanding Rights & Privileges
  - Access to heaven
  - Access to Courts
  - Part of the family
- Discernment & Wisdom
  - Just because you can see it, doesn't mean you should do it!
  - Jesus only did what he saw the Father doing

# Summary of understanding government

- It's God's idea – for the good of all people
- We are being mandated to bring government for a purpose
- Our blueprint & structure define the model
- We need to understand authority, function and jurisdiction
- We need to be governmental as individuals
- Bring Heavenly government to Earth