

Some Types of Governments Through the Centuries

A **Theocracy** is a government of a state by the immediate direction of God. An example of this was the state of Israel under the judges until the time of Saul.

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

“And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (I Samuel 8:4-5).

A **Monarchy** means it is a state or government in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of a single person. Throughout history, that ruler, that monarch, has meant a king or queen, not simply a dictator. Such a state is usually called an empire or a kingdom; and we usually give this denomination to a large state only. But the same name is sometimes given to a kingdom or state in which the power of the king or supreme magistrate is limited by a constitution, or by fundamental laws. Such is the British monarchy. Hence we speak of absolute or despotic monarchies, and of limited (constitutional) monarchies. There are few if any true monarchies in today’s world. The Queen of England, for example, has no

government power. Just the same, she is highly honored.

As seen in the Bible, many monarchs have been evil. But there is such a thing as a good monarch such as King David, a man after God’s own heart.

In a monarchy, rule is usually passed down through generation after generation of the same royal family. Examples: Japan and Denmark (They are the oldest monarchies, today.)

“A free government has a great advantage over a simple monarchy.”

—John Adams

“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36).

