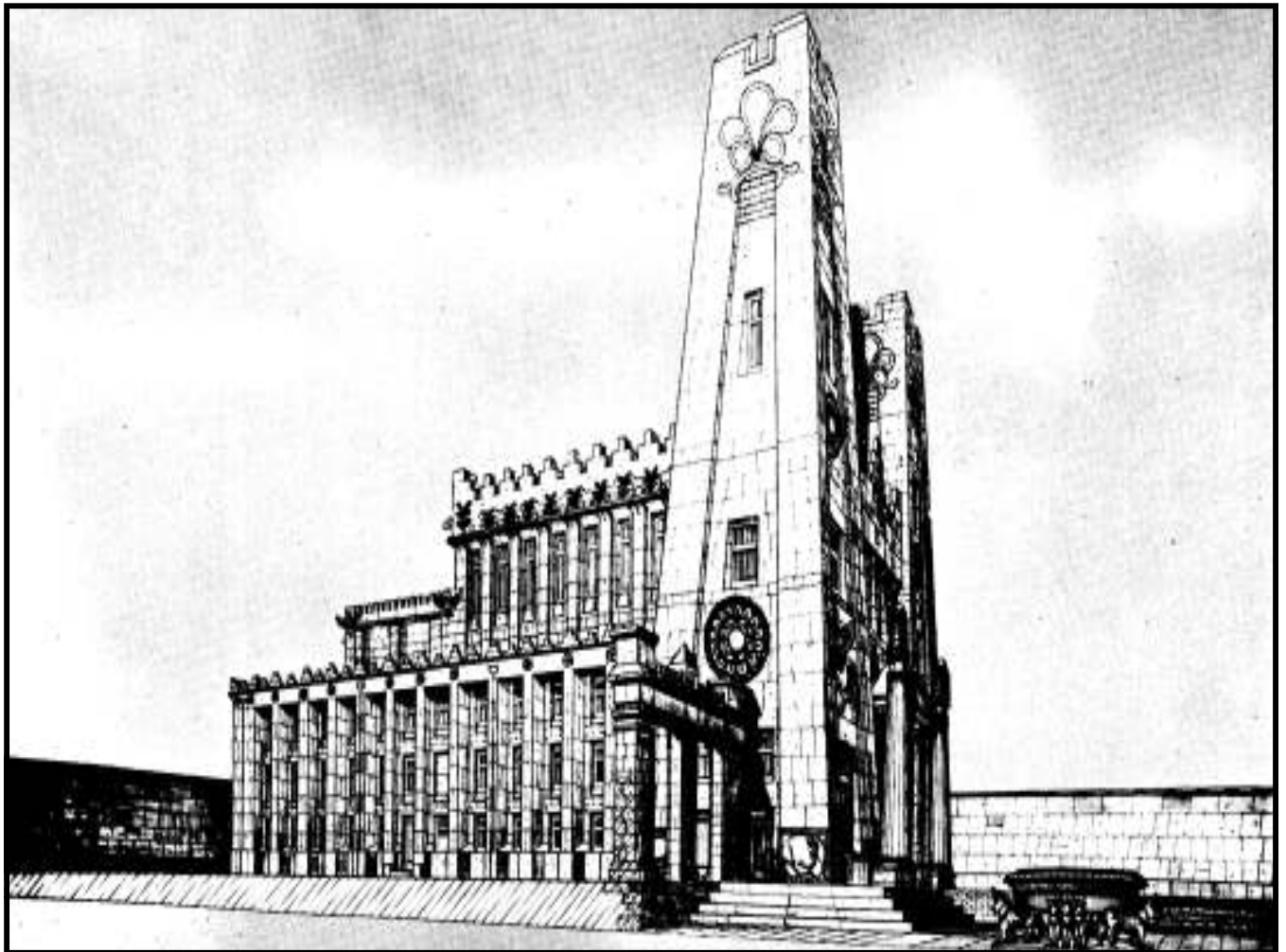


**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



YEHOVAH's Temple -- Future Center of World Government On this Earth

Judean Centralized Government

Lesson 17

An Open Letter from the Staff...

We learned in Lesson 15 that the Judeans believed in and followed many pagan practices -- many of their traditions can be found within the "Christian" world today. One such practice is the use of **CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT**.

History is replete with man's use of centralized government. From the Tower of Babel (**Genesis 11**) to the present day, man has controlled and subjected the masses through the use of centralized power and authority.

Prior to the time of King Saul, the Israelites practiced a unique form of self-government described today as a "theocracy." **YEHOVAH** God was the **ONLY** King in Israel. He alone was the lawgiver (legislator) -- there was none else. The Israelites had experienced hundreds of years of bondage under centralized government in Egypt. The nations around them also practiced this pagan form of government. Yet Israel was different -- at least until they decided to have a human king like the other nations. From that time on Israel lived under the bondage of centralized government, enslaved to their own rulers or other nations by which they were captured.

Many years later, after living in captivity under Babylonian centralized government, a remnant of Israelites returned to Jerusalem in Judea. They rebuilt the Temple and established their own form of centralized government -- influenced no doubt by the Babylonian style of rulership.

When the Messiah and **YEHOVAH** God return to this earth at the End of the Age, there will be only one form of government. It will not be Socialism. It will not be Communism or Fascism. It will not be human monarchy, oligarchy, or plutocracy. It will not be man's government over man -- it will be **YEHOVAH's** **DIVINE** government!

In this lesson we will begin to examine the Judean form of centralized government.



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 17

Published at Arcadia, California by Hope of Israel Ministries (Ecclesia of **YEHOVAH**).

EDITOR AND DIRECTOR
John D. Keyser

TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Sean C. Keyser

YOUR ENROLLMENT has been paid by others. Bulk copies for distribution not given or sold.

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor at the following address:

Hope of Israel Ministries, P.O. Box 2186,
Temple City, California 91780, U.S.A.

About Our Cover...

When Yeshua the Messiah and **YEHOVAH** God return to this earth all of man's governments will be disbanded and **YEHOVAH** God will rule the world from His Temple in Jerusalem -- assisted by the Messiah as king and High Priest.

Judean Centralized Government

LESSON 17

Control Through Centralized Power and Authority

We saw in Lesson 15 that many of the Judeans criticized the Messiah because he taught the people without having received formal training by the “so-called” Judean educational experts -- the “teachers of the law.” He did not have proper credentials (degrees, diplomas, certificates, licenses, etc.) issued by the recognized Judean authorities. Thus, they considered him to be an “unlearned” man (**John 7:15**). They also questioned his “authority.”



The Tower of Babel -- An Ancient Attempt to Centralize Power and Authority.

1. As the Messiah was teaching in the Temple, what did the chief priests and the elders of the people (so-called “authorities”) ask him? **Matthew 21:23**, first part. Did they ask him who gave him the authority to teach? **Same verse**, last part.

2. What did the Judean rulers, elders,

scribes, and high priests ask Peter and John in **Acts 4:7**?

COMMENT: In the above verses Yeshua and his disciples were being criticized for speaking and acting without having received proper AUTHORITY and POWER from the so-called “recognized authorities.” In essence these Judeans were setting themselves up as the ONLY proper source of authority and power, and anyone acting without their permission was doing so “illegally.” This is a standard trademark of Babylonian-style central government and has been used throughout history to CONTROL and SUBJUGATE people.

Difference Between Authority and Power

At this point, we need to distinguish between the terms “authority” and “power,” as they refer to different concepts. They are often INCORRECTLY interchanged, misleading people into thinking of them as equivalent terms. However, they are NOT equal in meaning as the definitions below illustrate. It should be noted that most English dictionaries confusingly treat POWER and

Authority

In the New Testament the word AUTHORITY is translated from the Greek word *exousia* (#1849 in **Strong's Concordance**). It refers to “jurisdiction” or “commission” to act. *Exousia* is derived from the root word *exesti* (#1832), meaning “it is lawful, it is free, it is permitted.”

AUTHORITY as if they were the same.

Authority

AUTHORITY must be handed down (commissioned or ordained) by a power or a sovereign. YEHOVAH God, being the only sovereign POWER, delegates AUTHORITY to others in His behalf ACCORDING TO HIS WILL. True authority, then, can come ONLY from YEHOVAH God -- the supreme "power."

Power

In the New Testament the word POWER is most often translated from the Greek word *dunamis* (#1411 in **Strong's Concordance**). It refers to the "strength" or "force" to act. *Dunamis* is derived from the root word *dunamai* (#1410), meaning "inherent capability."

To have POWER is to have the force or muscle to act -- the physical capability to conquer, defend or maintain ownership.

Power = inherent strength; capability.

Authority = a commission under a "power."

COMMENT: Even *Strong's Concordance* is confusing on this point as its definition of the Greek word *exousia* uses terms (ability, force, capacity) that are associated with the Greek word *dunamis*. However, a careful comparison of the Greek root words, *exesti* and *dunamai*, more clearly reflects the difference in concepts.

Authority and Power: Two Separate Things

1. In **Luke 9:1** what did the Messiah give his disciples? Was it power (*dunamis*) and

authority (*exousia*)?

COMMENT: The use of two separate Greek words (*exousia* and *dunamis*) in **Luke 9:1** indicates a DIFFERENCE between the terms "authority" and "power." Yeshua gave them two things -- the PERMISSION or JURISDICTION to act (authority) and the ABILITY or FORCE to act (power).

2. In **Luke 4:36**, why were the people amazed at him? Was it because he spoke with authority (*exousia*) and power (*dunamis*)?

COMMENT: The above verse indicates that the Messiah possessed two SEPARATE things: the PERMISSION and JURISDICTION (authority) to act as well as the ABILITY and FORCE (power) to exercise his authority. The people were able to recognize both.

3. Speaking of the Messiah, what does Peter say in **I Peter 3:22**? **Last part.** Does he say that authorities (*exousia*) and powers (*dunamis*) are made subject to the Messiah?

COMMENT: Again we see two SEPARATE things mentioned: *exousia* AND *dunamis*. Yeshua is now reigning over all those in positions of AUTHORITY as well as those exercising POWER over others -- BOTH are subordinate to him.

4. In **I Corinthians 15:24**, what is it that Paul says the Messiah put down as well as "all authority (*exousia*) and power (*dunamis*)"?

5. **Luke 20:20** indicates the chief priests and the scribes made efforts to deliver the Messiah "unto the POWER (*dunamis*) and AUTHORITY (*exousia*) of the" what?

COMMENT: Again, the preceding two verses indicate a DIFFERENCE between AUTHORITY and POWER. These terms are NOT identical. If they were the same, statements like those we have just read would be redundant. The use of two SEPARATE Greek words would not have been necessary if power and authority were synonymous. Obviously, these two terms are NOT equivalent. However, the verses below demonstrate that the translators sometimes ERRONEOUSLY used the words interchangeably.



The U.S. Capital Building -- A Modern Example of Man's Attempt to Centralize Power and Authority.

Source of Authority

Considering the meanings of POWER and AUTHORITY as given on pages 3 through 4, complete the following verses by writing the CORRECT word in the blanks. Remember that the King James version of the Bible often translates it wrongly.

1. Romans 13:1 states: "Let every soul [person] be subject unto the higher _____ (*exousia*). For there is no _____ (*exousia*) but of God: the _____ (*exousia*) that be are ordained [authorized] of God."

COMMENT: The above scripture identifies the SOURCE of "all authority": YEHOUAH God. Therefore, any so-called authority originating from men is NOT true authority. Genuine (lawful) authority can only be given by YEHOUAH God and NOT usurped by men. The "higher authorities" of **Romans 13:1** refers strictly to lawful (YEHOUAH-appointed) leaders. Contrary to popular opinion and current Judeo-Christian teaching, this verse does NOT refer to typical "rulers of men" who have established their own authority

or received it from an ungodly man-made system of centralized government.

Delegation of Authority

1. In Matthew 28:18 the Messiah says, "All _____ (*exousia*) is given unto me in heaven and earth."

2. According to Luke 10:19, Yeshua gave his disciples _____ (*exousia*) to tread on serpents and scorpions [referring to deceiving and malicious men], and over all the _____ (*dunamis*) of the enemy.

3. According to John 1:12 Yeshua gave to those who received him the _____ (*exousia*) to become the sons (children) of YEHOUAH God.

COMMENT: The above scriptures describe the delegating of authority. Yeshua received ALL authority from YEHOUAH God -- YEHOUAH DELEGATED it to him. Yeshua in turn gave (delegated) authority to his disciples and to those who believed on him. Authority, then, is "jurisdiction" (COMMISSIONED to act) that originates with YEHOUAH God and is subsequently delegated to others ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.

Acting in Someone's Name

1. Read Matthew 8:5-13. What does the Roman centurion say in **verse 9**?

COMMENT: The above verse describes DELEGATED AUTHORITY. The centurion, understanding authority, knew Yeshua had been commissioned by YEHOUAH God to heal the servant. He also knew that Yeshua possessed the POWER to carry out that authority (commission) by simply speaking the word (**verse 8**).

Authority is a "legal" term which refers

Judean Centralized Government

to the scope or area of jurisdiction, or commission, which has been granted by a “power” such as a sovereign. It can be delegated to others, or it can be withdrawn by the grantor. When authority is delegated, the grantor does not give up his authority -- he merely EXTENDS it. The one receiving authority has PERMISSION (or COMMISSION) from the grantor to act (use POWER) IN HIS NAME (as if done by him personally).

2. In **John 5:43** the Messiah said that he came in his Father’s what?

3. In **John 10:25** Yeshua says that the work that he does is done in whose name?

4. According to **John 12:13** the people cried, “Hosanna: Blessed is the king of Israel” that comes in whose name?

5. Following his conversion, in whose name (by whose authority) did the apostle Paul boldly preach? **Acts 9:27-29**.

6. In **James 5:10** who spoke in the name of the LORD?

COMMENT: The above verses are examples of DELEGATED authority -- ACTION taken on behalf (in the name) of a higher power. Yeshua and the prophets ACTED IN YEHOUVAH’S NAME (by YEHOUVAH’s authority). The disciples and apostles ACTED IN THE NAME OF THE MESSIAH (by the Messiah’s authority).

AUTHORITY is the lawful JURISDICTION (privilege or commission) to act; it is NOT the act itself. The ACTION, then, is accomplished through POWER (one’s ability or force).

Power Indicates Action

The Greek word *dunamis* indicates ACTION. In addition to “power,” *dunamis* is translated into these English words in the King James version of the Bible -- all suggesting STRENGTH or FORCE OF ACTION. Place each word in the correct verse below (1 through 9):

1. **Mark 6:2** refers to the “mighty

_____” (*dunamis*) wrought by the Messiah’s hands.

2. **Acts 2:22** speaks of the “_____” (*dunamis*) and wonders and signs” which YEHOUVAH God did through the Messiah.

3. In **II Corinthians 12:9** Paul states that the Messiah told him, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my _____” (*dunamis*) is made perfect in weakness.”

4. Paul says in **II Corinthians 12:12**, “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and _____” (*dunamis*).

5. Paul, speaking to the Christians in Ephesus, says in **Ephesians 3:16**, “That He [YEHOUVAH God] would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with _____” (*dunamis*) by His spirit in the inner man.”

6. **Matthew 25:15** states, “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several _____” (*dunamis*)...”

7. In **Colossians 1:29** Paul says, “Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his [Yeshua the Messiah’s] working, which worketh in me _____” (*dunamis*).

8. **Hebrews 11:34** speaks of quenching the _____” (*dunamis*) of fire.

9. Read **Mark 5:25-34**. After the woman had touched his garment, **verse 30** indicates that the Messiah knew immediately that what (*dunamis*) had gone out of him?

COMMENT: The above scriptures illustrate the INTENT of the Greek word *dunamis* (power): ACTION through STRENGTH (force). Lawful power is utilized UNDER PROPER AUTHORITY from YEHOUVAH God. However, man has the tendency to exercise UNWARRANTED power and establish his own UNLAWFUL authority, resulting in CONTROL and MANIPULATION of others.

Power (force), then, can be MISUSED. In fact, men usually establish and exercise their own UNGODLY power over others through

mere force (physical and mental) -- a common characteristic of human centralized governments. However, these have NO TRUE AUTHORITY!

Examples of Misused Authority and Power

1. Read **Matthew 20:20-28**. In **verse 25**, what is it that the Messiah told his disciples the princes of the nations exercised OVER them? And what was it that the great ones exercised UPON them?

2. Read **Mark 10:35-45**. In **verse 42**, what is that those who are over the "Gentiles" do? They also exercise what over them?

3. Read **Luke 22:24-30**. In **verse 25**, what is it that the Messiah says the "kings of the nations" exercise over them? And what are these kings called for doing this? (Note how the King James Bible translators ERRONEOUSLY used the term "Gentiles" in the verses above.)

COMMENT: In the preceding Bible verses, Yeshua the Messiah describes HOW man rules (lords over) people under Babylonian-style central government. In each case Yeshua then tells his disciples to NOT do the same. The words DOMINION and LORDSHIP are both translated from the Greek word *katakuriuo* (#2634 in **Strong's Concordance**), meaning "to lord against, i.e. Control, subjugate." This describes man's idea of government -- CONTROL and SUBJUGATION of people.

The word BENEFACTORS in **Luke 22:25** is rendered from the Greek word *euergetes* (#2110), meaning "a worker of good." How ironic: these subjugators and controllers are called "workers of good." Obviously, the good that they work is FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT rather than the people's well-being! This is MAN'S idea of government -- NOT YEHOUVAH God's!!

4. Read **I Peter 5:1-11**. What does Peter, in **verse 3**, tell the elders NOT to be over YEHOUVAH's heritage? (*Katakuriuo*).

5. In **verse 8** Peter warns them to "be

vigilant; because your adversary the devil [man-made centralized power], as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may" to do what to?

COMMENT: Here, the apostle Peter describes, perfectly, man's concept of centralized government -- lording over and DEVOURING others. Peter instructs Christian LEADERS to NOT follow this UNGODLY practice.

Saul's Source of Authority

1. Following the stoning of Stephen, **Acts 8:3** states that Saul entered into every what? What did he commit the men and women to?

2. Read **Acts 9:1-19**. According to **verses 1-2**, what did Saul get from the high priest so that he could arrest any Christians he would find in the synagogues?

3. In **verse 14** what is it that Ananias states Saul had from the chief priests to bind anyone that called on the Messiah's name?

COMMENT: The above verses CLEARLY show the SOURCE of Saul's AUTHORITY to arrest Christians: the Judean government -- with the high priest as head. This wicked government was using Saul to PROTECT ITSELF from those who were exposing ITS ILLEGITIMACY. **Verse 7** indicates that men journeyed with Saul. These Judean government agents ("police" or "law enforcement officers" in today's vernacular) were part of Saul's POWER to exercise his authority. However, Yeshua intervened, showed Saul the error of his ways (exposed his FALSE AUTHORITY AND POWER) and then replaced it with TRUE authority and power to carry out the Messiah's will.

Other Examples of Misused Authority

1. Read **Acts 4:1-21**. According to **verse 18**, the Judean government leaders (**verses 5-6**) commanded Peter and John not to do what? Nor

to do what in the name of the Messiah?

2. After asking if it was right to obey them (the Judean government leaders) more than YEHOVAH God (**verse 19**), Peter and John said, in **verse 20**, that they had to do what?

COMMENT: Here we see the Judean government's attempt to SUPERSEDE the authority of YEHOVAH God through the Messiah. It forbade Peter and John to act under the Messiah's authority. However, Peter and John CLEARLY state who's authority is SUPREME. In fact, they pointed out the UNLAWFULNESS of the Judean government's FALSE authority and the impossibility of obeying it.

3. Read **Acts 5:17-42**. Select the logical answer to the following questions: After bringing the apostles before the council (Sanhedrin -- centralized government high court

or seat of government), the Judean government leaders reminded the apostles that they had been ordered to (**verse 28**) –

- A. pay a fine.
- B. get a license.
- C. not teach in the Messiah's name (authority).

4. In **verse 29** the apostles answered –

- A. "We ought to obey God rather than men."
- B. "We will take it under advisement."
- C. "We don't need authority."

5. According to **verse 33**, the Judean leaders took counsel to –

- A. consider the merits of the apostles' message.
- B. slay the apostles.
- C. turn the apostles over to the Roman authorities.

6. In **verses 38 and 39** Gamaliel advises the council –

- A. to exercise their authority and kill the apostles.
- B. to frame the apostles as conspirators against

the Romans.

C. to leave the apostles alone and not risk further exposure.

COMMENT: Again we see the Judean government trying to FORCE their counterfeit authority on the apostles and prevent them from exercising YEHOVAH's authority. One of the government leaders admitted they were fighting YEHOVAH God's authority: however, that is exactly what they wanted to do. The government wanted its own authority to be SUPREME -- not unlike human government today.

Pilate's Invalid Authority

1. Read **John 19:1-16**. In **verse 10** Pilate advises the Messiah that he has the *exousia* to do what to him? Pilate then tells the Messiah that he also has the *exousia* to do what to him?



2. Yeshua replied in **verse 11** that Pilate had no *exousia* at all except that it were what from above (delegated from a higher authority)?

COMMENT: Three times in the above verses the translators INCORRECTLY rendered the Greek word *exousia* into "power" -- instead of the CORRECT term "authority."

3. After the Messiah's statement, **verse 12** indicates that Pilate was ready to do what to

him?

COMMENT: In an attempt to get the Messiah to speak, Pilate tried to point out his so-called AUTHORITY over him. Yeshua, however, explained to Pilate that his supposed authority was NOT VALID and that genuine authority COMES ONLY FROM YEHOVAH GOD! In effect, Yeshua told Pilate that he had NO authority (jurisdiction) over him. Pilate's so-called authority was from an UNLAWFUL source -- HUMAN CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT (in this case, Roman central government).

The Nature of Centralized Government

A COMMON characteristic of centralized government is self-preservation -- the tendency to protect ITSELF from the people it controls. Any threat against its authority and power must be attacked and destroyed. So it was with the Judean government.

1. Read **John 11:47-53**. According to **verse 48**, the chief priests and Pharisees were concerned that the Romans would do what? (Two things).

2. In **verse 50** Caiaphas, the high priest, tells the council that it would be "expedient" for the Messiah to do what rather than the whole nation perish?

3. **Verse 53** states that from that time forward the Judean government leaders took counsel to do what to the Messiah?

COMMENT: Yeshua was teaching the people about freedom (liberty) and about Godly government. In the process, he was exposing the WICKEDNESS and UNLAWFULNESS of man-made centralized government. Because so many of the people were believing the Messiah's teachings, the Judean government rulers were afraid of potential rebellion that would cause the Roman authorities to put an end to their privileged positions of lordship (dominion) over the people. To PROTECT THEMSELVES from such a threat, they decided to kill the Messiah. They were not above MURDERING an innocent

man to save their government and their rulership positions. Such has been the characteristic of CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT throughout history: SELF-PRESERVATION AT ALL COSTS!

In Lesson 19 we will continue to see how the Judean central government SUBJUGATED and PLUNDERED the Judean people and how it dealt with threats to its power and authority.

Recommended Reading...

The *Plain Truth* About Church Government!

The Primacy of Peter and the Church of YEHOVAH God!

The Role of Government in the Local Church

Should You Follow Just *One* Man?

Is *Judaism* the Religion of Moses?

The Three Great *Enemies* of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God!

Are Modern "Jews" *Really* Descended from the Sons of Jacob?

Between the Two Testaments

Are You a "Comfortable" Christian?

"As It Was In the Days of Noah..."

To order the above articles write to:

Hope of Israel Ministries
P.O. Box 2186
Temple City, California 91780, U.S.A.

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: When the Israelites returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity, did they set up a government patterned after Babylonian-style of rulership? _____

Question 2: History is replete with man's use of _____

Question 3: Babylonian-style central government has been used throughout history to _____ and _____ people.

Question 4: Do the terms "authority" and "power" refer to the same concept? _____

Question 5: True authority can ONLY come from _____.

Question 6: When authority is delegated, the grantor does not give up his authority but merely _____ it.

Question 7: What does the Greek word *dunamis* indicate? _____

Question 8: Man has the tendency to exercise _____ power and establish his own _____ authority.

Question 9: Is it true that man's idea of government is the control and subjugation of people? _____

Question 10: To protect themselves and their privileged positions of lordship, the Judean rulers decided to do what to the Messiah? _____

Question 11: Is it true that the New Testament nowhere indicates that the Judean government tried to force its authority upon the apostles and prevent them from carrying out YEHOVAH's work? _____

Question 12: What was the source of Saul's (Paul's) authority to arrest Christians?

Question 13: Man-made centralized power can be likened to what in I Peter 5:8?

Question 14: Were the Judean leaders true benefactors of the Judean people? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 17 through 20, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

