

# THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

## POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE HISTORICAL KINGDOM

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### MILITARY

- God was Israel's Commander-in Chief

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### FOREIGN POLICY

- isolationism (Ex 23:31–33; 34:12)
  - complete reliance on God (Lev 26:3, 6–8; 14, 17)
- political and economic supremacy (Deut 15:4–6)
  - alliances lead to religious and moral deterioration, dependence on men rather than upon God, entanglements in useless wars, and loss of national security (Isa 30:1–5; 31:1–3)

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### PRE-KINGDOM TRIBAL ELDERS

- representative government: the elders represented the people
- God sent Moses to them (Ex 3:16–18)
- they accepted the covenant at Sinai (Ex 19:7)
- elders became the "judges and officers" of the theocratic kingdom (Deut 16:18)



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### NO STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- tribal confederacy
- freedom at local level to govern themselves
- feeling of political liberty unknown in other nations
  - influenced modern democratic nations
- states (tribes) held together by the immediate presence of the LORD (Ex 33:16)
  - perfect balance between national security and personal liberty

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### MEDIATORIAL RULER

- had executive and judicial powers
- had no legislative power (Deut 17:18–20)
- elders have judicial power (Deut 16:18–20)

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### RULE OF LAW

- all cases decided on the basis of an objective, written, divine law
- provision for immediate access to God in difficult cases—through Moses (Num 15:32–36), the priests (Num 5:11–31), and judges (Deut 17:8–12)