

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrate
Jeremiah 38:1-13; 39:15-18;
Romans 13:1-5

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1. King Zedekiah, the "minister of God", served as the _____ magistrate in Judah.

- a. Zedekiah had proven himself to be a _____ deficient king.
- b. Instead of being a minister of God for _____ to Jeremiah, Zedekiah gave him into the hands of evil men.

"The Magistrate is an ordinance of God for honor to good works, and a terror to evil works (Romans 13). Therefore when he begins to be a terror to good works and honor to evil men, there is no longer in him, because he does thus, the ordinance of God, but the ordinance of the _____. And he who resists such works, does not resist the ordinance of God, but the ordinance of the devil."

- The Magdeburg Confession, 1550

2. Ebed-melech, the "minister of God", served as a _____ magistrate in Judah.

"Inferior judges are no less immediate stewards of _____ than the ruler is." - Samuel Rutherford, 1644

- a. Ebed-melech went to King Zedekiah on behalf of Jeremiah and described what had been done to him as _____.

"Interposition is that calling of God which causes one to step into the _____--willingly placing oneself between the oppressor and his intended victim."
- Matthew Trehwella

"It is no less blasphemy (of God's holy name) to say that God has commanded kings to be obeyed, when they command impiety, than to say that God by His precept is author and maintainer of all iniquity." - John Knox, 1558

- b. Ebed-melech directed those under his authority to _____ Jeremiah.

- c. Ebed-melech was _____ by God for his God-honoring actions as a lesser magistrate.

"The _____ and hope, which Ebed-melech had in God, made him bold to oppose himself, being but one, to the king and to his whole council, who had condemned to death, the prophet, whom his conscience did acknowledge to be innocent."

- John Knox, 1558