

Does God Ordain All Human Government?

Part 1

This article will strike at the heart of some long-cherished beliefs and upend some wrong theology in the church. The only way to correct these ideas is with the clear teaching of God's Word. So, here we go!

"They (people) have set up kings, but not by Me (the Lord): they have made princes, and I knew it not" (Hosea 8:4a NASB- parenthesis are from me to clarify).

People put some kings and princes in power without following God's will or plan! What a shocking and controversial statement! Can government officials be set in place by people and not by God's direction or authority? The answer is, "Yes," according to the Word of the Lord through the prophet Hosea. God did not put all leaders in authority. There are kings, prime ministers, and presidents that God had nothing to do with their election, and in fact, people put them into that position of authority. God had NOTHING to do with many leaders being elected.

That is a shocker to many traditional beliefs, but there it is in Hosea. Believe it!

Many believe that God ordained all government to rule over mankind. Everybody points to Romans 13 as his or her theological position on governmental authority as ordained of God. Some believe that we should always submit to government authorities even if they are evil. We will look at that passage in part 2 of this series. The interpretation many have given Romans 13:1-7 is in opposition to many scriptures in the Bible. Hosea 8:4 is just one of them.

The government may be an institution in and of itself, but those that govern within it define the government. Bad leaders make the government bad, and good leaders make the government good. The institution of government has no life of its own. That is why we must work to get good elected officials into our American government. It is not the form of government as much as it is who is charge!

What kind of government does God want?

Some have the belief that God institutes a particular form of government, but there are many varieties of government. There are democracies, republics, democratic republics, aristocracies, dictatorships, monarchies, socialist republics, communist states, theocracies, and numerous other types of governments.

In the Bible, we usually see monarchies. Today, we see other forms of government. In the West, we tend to think that democracy is the greatest. Actually, democracy is very bad IF you have perverted leaders.

What type of government would God approve? Democracy? Republic? Monarchy? Theocracy? Socialist Republic? The answer is simple. The type of government approved by God is that government where His principles, commandments, ordinances, and instructions reign supreme, and all others are weeded out and discarded. All others are on shaky ground with Him.

In the Scriptures, we see good and bad monarchies in First and Second Kings and Chronicles. They were always defined by their leadership and not by the “form” of government. Those that followed God found His favor. Evil monarchies were considered damnable because they led the people into idolatry (false religion) and abominable practices such as harlotry, adultery, homosexuality, theft, and many other violations of God’s commandments. Read The Book!

The leaders make the government good or bad according to what they do and how they lead the people. Good leaders would lead the people towards God, and evil leaders would lead the people away from God. Again, a government administers life or death according to its leaders.

Evil people appointed to government office

Evil people with an abhorrent agenda have been appointed to government offices throughout world history. Some got their leadership roles through unjust wars, murder, theft, or by usurping power in some other way. God was not behind their rise to power! Some were cruel despots from the start of their reigns of terror, but some were initially seen as saviors and later showed who they really were. The wolves came out of the sheep’s clothing, and the bad trees showed what they were by their evil fruits (Matthew 7:15-20).

Adolf Hitler was a case in point. It was not immediately apparent that he was one of the worse mass-murderers in history. Did you know that Hitler became a wildly popular leader among Germans? By 1940, he was the nation’s undisputed leader and champion.¹ Contrary to what some think and believe, Hitler may have been one of the most popular leaders in history, and yet he was one of the most demon-possessed. The majority is not always right. Sometimes they are dead wrong.

Though Hitler’s policies were horrendous for people of other nations, the Reich brought to ethnic Germans great hope, dreams of grandeur, economic growth, and the expansion of the German Homeland. German citizens were rejoicing in their

¹ See *Hitler's Beneficiaries; Plunder, Racial War, and The Nazi Welfare State* (Götz Aly, Henry Holt and Company, LLC, New York, First U.S. Edition 2007); pgs. 28, 29. This book changed some of my views of how a serial thief and a mass murderer could also be a charismatic and resourceful leader loved by millions in his country. This book will clearly show that the vast majority of the populace ended up seeing Hitler as the savior of Germany. It is an eye-opening book. It should have served as a warning. Many refuse to learn from the lessons of history, so they commit the same errors of past generations.

newfound prosperity and the resources that were stolen from the countries the Reich invaded! An official and vast Third Reich network embezzled property, provisions, and money by the billions!

Millions were destitute and dying outside of Germany because of Hitler's evil tactics. Millions were sent to forced labor and death camps. People in German-occupied lands knew that Hitler was a dangerous psychopath, but Germans didn't see that side of him at home. Those inside the German Homeland learned to love and adore him as their glorious benefactor. Hitler was history's classic Jekyll and Hyde, having a split personality unmatched in history. He was good to his people but cruel and destructive towards everyone else.

When Hitler first published his disgusting anti-Semitic book, *Mein Kampf*, (*My Struggle*, 1925) it should have been a huge warning sign for all Germans. His book revealed his agenda and plans, but most Germans overlooked his extreme militarism, racial supremacy, and virulent demonization of the Jews (and his genocidal tendencies) and voted for him.² Germany voted into power a demon-possessed man completely outside the plan and purpose of God!

I am sorry to report, and any astute observer can see it, that we have voted in some devil-inspired men and women into American politics. Judges with no moral backbones have been voted in or appointed by demon-inspired politicians that have sided in with ungodliness and perversion in our society.

Too many Americans have been swayed to vote for charismatic personalities that have openly rejected God's commandments, and opened wide the door for Islam and other perversions in America. The night the White House (under Obama) turned on their "rainbow" lights to celebrate the Supreme Court's decision to support same-sex marriage; I knew America was in HUGE trouble before God. The wolves came out of the sheep's clothing and the evil trees produced evil fruit! See Matthew 7:15-

² As a Hispanic, and just because I am a human being, I am very sensitive to these issues. I read Donald's Trump book, *Crippled America*, and none of the extreme positions ascribed to Trump are true. I have listened to many of his speeches, and they were VERY inclusive of all people and all races. All the many decisions he has made reflect a genuine desire to help America, not to destroy it. Too many believe lies because they do not investigate the sources for themselves. They believe the leftist agenda of the majority of the mainstream media. ***Trump cannot be compared to Hitler in any way, shape, or form.*** Many Democrats and leftists have tried to draw some similarities between Trump and Hitler, calling him a NAZI, bigot, fascist, etc., but they are following a political agenda designed to malign and demonize a sitting president that threatens their liberal, sin-ridden agenda. Even if you disagree with Trump, it will do you good to get the information directly from the source and not from secondary sources. Let's be fair and quit deriding people because we think they are evil without any proof. For the record, I would NEVER vote for any presidential hopeful that agrees with the LGBT agenda, abortion, or Islam. In case you think I am vague, that means that I would never vote for any Democratic hopeful. The Democratic platform supports a demon-inspired agenda that will lead this nation to further weakness, perversion, sin, and finally to its destruction. You better pray, get out, and vote (especially in these midterms 2018), or we will have more of the same evil kind of government as we had since 2008 under Obama.

20.

It is time to spiritually and politically take back our country, and put it once again on the track that the founding fathers envisioned for America. America was founded on Judeo-Christian Biblical principles. Our Constitution will not work the way it was intended to if people attempt to make it conform to an anti-God ideology and agenda.

President John Adams understood this truth when he bluntly stated to the military in 1798: *"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*³

The ungodly don't get the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Muslims can't reconcile it with their *sharia* law. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights oppose *sharia* law on many points. There is no agreement!

That is why Americans must take a stand and refuse to compromise our country's constitutional heritage. If a foreigner wants to live in the U. S. A. or become naturalized, then our Constitution and Bill of Rights must be respected and observed. They are not allowed to come here to attempt to change our heritage, but to conform to it or leave our shores. That is a big part of what it means to be an American citizen. You respect the U. S. flag, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and if need be, will fight honorably to protect this country from all enemies foreign or domestic.

President George Washington stated: *"...the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained."*⁴

The eternal rules of order and right are upon what our constitutional heritage was based. God's holy and moral commandments that distinguished between what is right and wrong cannot be disregarded and expect Heaven to continue to smile of our country.

Look at this statement by President Thomas Jefferson: *"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free ... it expects what never was and never will be." "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath?"*⁵

³ <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/99-02-02-3102>

⁴ https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/inaugtxt.html - Washington's inaugural address of 1789.

⁵ *Notes on the State of Virginia*, Query XVIII:
<http://www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers/notes/nsvviewer.php?page=98&nav=query&q=18&results=0page> - Also found on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. See Panel Three-
<https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/quotations-jefferson-memorial>.

The firm basis of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights are not to be violated because the founders recognized these liberties as God's gift. When you take God out of the equation, the firm basis begins to erode. That is why so many on the left want to fight against our constitutional rights today. They have forgotten about God, His Word, and His moral guidelines.

We should not be surprised many have a hard time with the Constitution because they have believed a socialist leftist dogma that is anti-God and anti Bible morality. Many leftists want to change the Constitution because they see it as reflecting an older era.

That much is true!

The Constitution reflects an older era when the leaders understood its godly character and Biblical background. Many reject Bible morality, and so they scorn, mock, and despise our Constitution and Bill of Rights. These have a deep resentment and want to stop its influence upon our society. It is too "Christian" and expresses too much freedom for them. Many of them prefer no religion, or any other religion EXCEPT Christianity or its influence.

We have news for the scorers and haters of God and His moral commandments: You will fail miserably! Here is a prophetic word for the evildoers in government and society, and what will happen to them unless they repent:

Wicked men will be wiped out, but those who rely on the Lord are the ones who will possess the land. Evil men will soon disappear; you will stare at the spot where they once were, but they will be gone. But the oppressed will possess the land and enjoy great prosperity. Evil men plot against the godly and viciously attack them. The Lord laughs in disgust at them, for he knows that their day is coming (Psalms 37:9-13 NET).

Evil people in government and society, you have been put on notice by the Word of the Lord. You will soon disappear, and we will stare at the spot where you once were, but you will be gone! We are putting God and His moral guidelines back on the books, and the devil and his henchmen will not, and cannot stop it!

People are praying all over America for great healing to come to our land (2 Chronicles 7:14), and God answers the prayers of His people. We have His smile from Heaven, and the forces of darkness that have attempted to hijack our country are being forcibly pushed back. The battle is being won, and in the Name of Jesus, we will have the victory over the darkness. America will have a repentance revival, and God's glory will once again invade our land!

Get ready America, because our best days are not behind us, but in front of us, IF we will only repent and begin to change our evil ways and agree with God! I believe we

are beginning to see vast changes in leadership and government that will be a wide open door for a Godly America to emerge again! May it be so in the Name of Jesus!

Does God Ordain All Human Government? Part 2

You will not get the full impact of Part 2 unless you read Part 1. Let's remind ourselves of this enlightening verse:

"They have set up kings, but not by Me (the Lord): they have made princes, and I knew it not" (Hosea 8:4a NASB).

The idea that all government officials are in power because God put them there is contrary to what the Lord spoke to the prophet Hosea. God never set up some kings, princes, prime ministers, or presidents in places of authority. Some leaders were put in power by people outside the will and plan of God, and not by His direction or authority.

Most commentators believe Romans 13 teaches that all government leaders and institutions are ordained of God. I disagree with the vast majority of commentators on this subject, but I did not reach my conclusions out of thin air. One has to ignore many other Scriptures that oppose the idea that God authorizes *all* leaders. The truth is that God anoints *some* to lead, but that does not include ALL.

Most Christian circles have accepted Paul's teaching as a blanket statement about all government and officials. Paul carefully outlines the subject by including some necessary limitations.

Correcting our understanding of Romans 13

Let's read Paul's statement objectively:

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God. So the person who resists such authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will incur judgment. (Romans 13:1, 2 NET)

Notice the following statements in these verses, and let's unravel it some:

1. Authority... by God's appointment.
2. Authorities... instituted by God.
3. Resists *such* authority. (That is, those appointed and instituted by God.)
4. Resists the ordinance of God. (When God appoints and institutes an authority, to resist that kind of authority is to resist the ordinance of

God!)

Paul was teaching about government officials that God puts into places of authority by His appointment. I didn't come up with that on my own. I believe that Lord gave me this truth from the phrases I excerpted from the verses, and the explanations given in parenthesis. I believe these clearly highlight the fact that Paul was referring to those leaders in government that were a force for good.

Paul was not referring to government alone as a separate entity from the ruler. He was not referring to evil individuals that sit in government offices that want to bend the rules and slant them for evil purposes. If a government official is a force for good, then God had something to do with their ordination or appointment. We should respect them and obey them. We should submit to that kind of authority. Paul is correcting and rebuking those that rebel against good authorities ordained and appointed by God.

Look at the verses that follow. Paul qualifies whom he was referring to.

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil (Romans 13:3, 4 NASB).

What kind of rulers were these? What was the criteria?

- Rulers that cause fear for those practicing evil behavior.
- Rulers that are ministers (servants) of God for doing what is good.
- Rulers that are ministers (servants) of God to bring wrathful vengeance by the sword⁶ on those that practice evil.
-

How could we have missed the qualifications Paul gives for government officials?

Paul's lead-in to this entire subject of government officials ordained to praise the good and destroy evil was Romans 12:21, the last verse of the previous chapter. The chapter division between twelve and thirteen was arbitrarily injected into Paul's consecutive train of thought! This last verse (12:21) qualifies our subject matter in chapter thirteen.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21 NASB).

Paul was speaking about government officials that take a stand for good and

⁶ The sword represents some form of justice measured out according to the severity of the violation. These included monetary reparations, incarceration, or the death of the perpetrator.

overcome evil with it.

Having the qualifications as presented by Paul

How many of our government officials in America can qualify based on Paul's criteria? There are not many. How many American government officials sit in opposition to God's moral commandments and what He calls as good? How many have rejected God's standards for marriage, sex, human life, child rearing, money, education, and business? How many oppose prayer, Bible teaching, and Christianity? How many are pushing to remove all mention of God and Jesus from the government, schools, monuments, and everywhere they can spread their evil influence?

What about people in government that are not a force for good but are evil rulers or governors? What about government officials placed by popular vote that support laws and agendas that favor evil in society? We desperately need them voted out, and replaced by good government and godly people.

WOE TO those [judges] who issue unrighteous decrees, and to the magistrates who keep causing unjust and oppressive decisions to be recorded (Isaiah 10:1 Amplified Bible).

The prophet Isaiah pronounced a woe on judges because they opposed God and His commandments. Were they placed in a position of authority with God's approval and blessing? Hosea teaches that this is not always the case. There are some kings and princes (including judges) that God did not appoint or approve.⁷ They are usurpers of authority that God neither knew nor anointed for office.

Just because someone wins the presidency or becomes prime minister by popular vote does not mean that God set them into a place of authority. Just because someone wins a Senate seat or governorship does not mean that God set him or her there. The same can be said for all government appointees everywhere. Again, my foundation for stating this is Hosea 8:4, but there is much more evidence in the Scripture.

A divided kingdom cannot stand

What happens when a kingdom is divided by enforcing some righteous laws, but it then establishes and promotes evil laws that clearly violate God's commandments? Do you know? What did Jesus say about this?

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom will not be able to stand (Mark

⁷ Or in today's vernacular this could also include presidents, governors, prime ministers, mayors, senators, judges, councilmen, police chiefs, etc. This also includes all appointed government officials like those appointed by the president or leader of the country.

3:24 NET).

What happens to a divided kingdom? It cannot stand, and will eventually be judged. It will be given over to two opposing governments. Do you need an example?

As for peres- your kingdom is divided and given over to the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:28 NET).

A divided kingdom that doesn't get its act together will eventually get split apart. There has to be some form of agreement between the parties, because a divided kingdom will fall or be destroyed, and at times, it can be split into separate countries. World history gives us numerous examples.

Can two walk together unless they are agreed? (Amos 3:3 KJV)

I know that this is an appalling thought for our great nation of America. Right now, America is, basically, split down the middle between those that love God or His moral principles, and those that hate anything related to God. I trust that America comes to repentance and this nation turns back to God and the Lord Jesus.

Let me show you by another prophetic example what we are seeing, and what we could witness in the future in America unless there is drastic spiritual change and renewal. I am not being pessimistic, and I am far from being a doomsday proponent. America can turn around, and I believe 2016 started bringing some godly changes into leadership and our government. What if we fail to vote in leaders that care about Christianity and God's idea of morality? What if things continue with bad leaders and evil judges? What could happen if America does not repent and come back to God? Here is the terrible truth:

In that you were seeing feet and toes a partly of wet clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom. Some of the strength of iron will be in it, for you saw iron mixed with wet clay. In that the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, the latter stages of this kingdom will be partly strong and partly fragile. And in that you saw iron mixed with wet clay, so people will be mixed with one another without adhering to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. In the days of those kings the God of heaven will raise up an everlasting kingdom that will not be destroyed and a kingdom that will not be left to another people. It will break in pieces and bring about the demise of all these kingdoms. But it will stand forever... (Daniel 2:41-44 NET)

I am using this for prophetic instruction. I understand the implications of this text for Babylon, Assyria, Medes-Persians, and ancient Rome with its historic division into the Eastern and Western Roman empires. I believe we can gain prophetic insight into how God sees things because He is always the same. He never changes.

Right now, our country is divided. It is partly strong because of righteousness, and

partly fragile because of sin. Everybody can see it today. It is not something mysterious “revelation.” You don’t need prophetic insight to get it. America today is like iron and wet clay that can never mix. The people of God are in a mixed society of righteousness and sinfulness, and one cannot agree with the other (see 2 Corinthians 6:14-17). They are opposed to each other along strict lines of division, and if it continues that way, the nation cannot stand or endure in its present state.

I am praying (as thousands of others are) that the midterm elections (2018) continue to lean right towards righteousness and away from immorality and the hatred of the left, if not, our country will be in BIG trouble.

In the case of Daniel's vision, he begins to see the kingdom of God that cannot be destroyed because it is eternal. It is the *only* eternal kingdom. All others are temporary and will fail eventually. Babylon, Assyria, Medes-Persians, Greece, and Rome were all destroyed. God's kingdom breaks in pieces the other (ungodly) kingdoms and brings about their demise. That is why we must have a spiritual awakening in America.

Read this closely because I am approaching this prophetically.

God's people are praying and trusting God for revival, repentance, and godly change in the land. It’s happening slowly but surely from sea to shining sea. God's kingdom is a force in our nation that will bring about judgment. America gets with the program, coming to repentance, and serving the Lord, or it could be broken into pieces. It's unavoidable prophetically and scripturally.

I vote for America getting with the program, coming to repentance, serving the Lord. How about you? That is what I am praying for, and I trust that you are too!

Does God Ordain All Human Government? Part 3

Once again, let me remind you of this Scripture to get you thinking in the right direction:

“They have set up kings, but not by Me (the Lord): they have made princes, and I knew it not” (Hosea 8:4a NASB).

Without a question, we have seen that God only appoints good leaders. Men have elected corrupt leaders, and God had nothing to do with it. My statements are correct but too sweeping because it gets more complicated than that on certain occasions. Sometimes God will do very unusual things to get a task done. He may use very unlikely people. You will see what I mean.

There have been many demon-inspired and evil rulers throughout history

I wrote a little about Adolf Hitler in Part 1 of this series. Take for example Caligula, Genghis Kahn, Henry VIII, Ivan IV (the Terrible), Maximilien Robespierre, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot (of Khmer Rouge infamy), etc. Did God ordain them to stand in their positions of authority? Did they have divine, God-given authority, or was their authority coming from demonic power?

To all these evil rulers we have to add the terrorist organizations that have taken over cities and countries, such as, Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL), Boko Haram (Islamic State's West Africa Province), Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, and many others. Did God put those evil organizations in power and ordain them to kill, steal, and destroy (see John 10:10)? Of course not! Many, because they take Paul's words in Romans 13:1-7 as a blanket statement, wouldn't know how to answer my question. We discussed this in Part 2 of this series.

Spiritual battles in the unseen realm

The book of Daniel chapter ten shows us a spiritual battle in the unseen realm. There were spiritual forces (the prince and kings of Persia) aligned against God's angelic messenger that came to bring the answer to Daniel's prayer. These demonic forces opposed the heavenly messenger for twenty-one days. Michael the archangel came to help the angelic messenger fight and open the way so he could reach Daniel. After the divine messenger had finished delivering his message, he was going to return to combat the spirit princes and kings of Persia, and then another demonic "prince" was coming, the wicked spirit, and prince of Greece.

There are authorities, powers, and wicked spirits in high places arrayed against God's people and His plans on earth (Ephesians 6:12). These demon forces work to set up Satan's kingdom on the earth. They stand behind the evil governments, rulers, and people on our planet.

Believers have authority in the Name of Jesus over the wiles of the devil as they submit to God (Mark 16:17, James 4:7). As the Lord leads, and by His power, we can exercise influence against these wicked spirits in high places (Ephesians 6:10-18). We do not have authority over every situation on the planet, or over other people, but as the Holy Spirit leads us in prayer, we can have a powerful impact over demonic activity. There are many things to say here about this, and I address it later in this article.

In the end, at the coming of the Lord Jesus to rule and reign upon the earth, the people of God win it all. NOBODY will resist His rule and reign for a thousand years! He will rule with a rod of iron, and He will be King of kings. It will not be a democracy, but all will serve and obey Him willingly for a thousand years. For the interim, there are demonic influences in the earth that stand behind certain people, governments, and rulers. Believe it, because it is true whether we like it or not!

The ultimate “government official” that will have demonic power behind him will be what many call the antichrist! Paul called him the man of lawlessness whose coming will be “in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-10).

Deception, wickedness, false signs and wonders, with full Satanic backing, will earmark the government of the man of sin. It will be evil government to the maximum degree! We have the first fruits of this antichrist spirit already operating in many of the politicians governing the world today, and some are right here in America! As far as the world is concerned, the worst is yet to come for them!

Here is another point on this subject of rulers that complicates matters further.

Some rulers began with an anointing and ordination of God

Some rulers began with an anointing and ordination of God, but messed up their rule through rebellion and the practice of sin.

Some examples in Scripture are Kings Saul and Solomon.

Saul lost his anointing and rule over Israel when he disobeyed and rebelled against the Lord. He went so far as to persecute God’s next choice for king, the shepherd David. Saul ended up following after soothsayers, committed suicide, and did not repent.

Solomon was anointed to be king after his father David died. He was, possibly, the richest and wisest king to ever live. In old age, Solomon allowed foreign wives to turn away his heart from the Lord and to idolatry. He came to a sad end and evidently died in sin because there is no record of his repentance.

These leaders started right before the Lord, with a special anointing on their lives but ended up wrongly. (See Ezekiel 18:24, 26.) It’s not how you start your race that counts at the end of your life. How you finish at the end of your life is what counts before the Lord! (See Ezekiel 18:19-31.)

Why is “*how you finish at the end of your life is what counts before the Lord*” so hard for many to believe? Not only was this taught in Ezekiel 18:19-31, but Jesus taught this same truth in the Gospels? I am aware of how tragic that can be, especially if there was a family member or friend that left this life unrepentant. I have lost some former friends that departed this life after refusing repentance and denying Jesus. I’ve known some preachers like that. It is an extremely harsh and painful truth, but a very real one. It is inescapable. Read it from the lips of Jesus.

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord,

have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? 'And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness (Matthew 7:21-23).

Do we know anybody in the ministry of Jesus that started out with an anointing to heal the sick and cast out demons, and later abandoned the Lord? Yes, and his name was Judas Iscariot! Judas began with the commission given to the twelve disciples (later called apostles) to go in the authority and power of Jesus to do miraculous works.

Initially, Judas sat at the feet of Jesus and followed Him. He became a part of the “inner circle” of Jesus and was a recipient of a glorious ministry. Judas was among the disciples that received a powerful anointing to go and represent Jesus with supernatural power to heal and cast out demons (Matthew 10:1-4). Judas Iscariot was one of them, but he betrayed the Master, committed suicide, and died in his sin.

Judas Iscariot was a classic example of starting out in righteousness, but ending in lawlessness or unrighteousness, as we see in the words of the prophet Ezekiel (18:19-31) and the Lord Jesus (Matthew 7:21-23). Judas will be among those that use the excuse of past supernatural exploits they did for the Lord, but the Lord will reject them because when they died they were rejecting Him. They will be dismissed from His presence because they were practicing lawlessness up until the moment they died. That is the wrong way to be caught dead!

Another type of leader is the one called upon by people to lead them back to bondage.

That happens in the political realm as well as in the religious realm. We could give you many modern examples, but I am sure you can come up with some on your own.

They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage (Nehemiah 9:17 NKJV).

Government officials that God calls and ordains to serve in office

Kings like David, Josiah, Hezekiah, and others were examples of anointed leaders in Israel.

Oddballs in Bible history

Nebuchadnezzar found out that God would ordain people for leadership in government, sometimes to everybody’s surprise (Daniel 4:17). Sometimes, they were the most unlikely candidates. Judgment came to Nebuchadnezzar for refusing to do what God ordained. For seven years, he ran around like a wild goat, completely out of his mind. After he had repented for his pride and refusal to obey, he was

restored to a sound mind and recognized the God of heaven and His rule over the realm of mankind.

There are certain occasions when the hammer of divine judgment falls because God has given His Word. His must fulfill His promises to His people, via one way or another. Sometimes, when God's Word is on the line, severe punishments, great miracles, or adverse judgments happen when people refuse to comply. The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar found out through a very harsh judgment!

Pharaoh found out in the book of Exodus that terror comes upon those who want to restrain God's promised outcome! When God gives His Word, He will have His way and nothing will be able to stop Him.

Cyrus received a special anointing from the Lord to help the people of Israel, and he didn't even know God (Isaiah 45:1-5). Cyrus was definitely an oddball! That goes against all conventional understanding of the anointing, but God can do as He pleases, as long as He does not violate His principles and laws.

God's sovereignty

That last phrase is very controversial for those that believe God can do as He always pleases, and no matter what because He is sovereign and nothing can withstand His will. I strongly disagree in the sense that God cannot violate His own Word!

God's real power as a "sovereign" or ruler is not the usual definition of "sovereignty"! Let us settle this issue of sovereignty in our minds. To many sovereignty means that your will is immaterial because when it's God will it will be done no matter what. Let's go to the Word to answer that VERY wrong assumption on God's sovereignty.

God's sovereign will is that not one human being perish and go to a devil's hell (2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 25:41). How many have died and gone to hell because they refused to line up with God's will? How many have perished because they refused God's gift in His Son? (See John 3:16.) God wants to save all men (1 Timothy 2:4), but those that refuse to repent will perish! (Luke 13:3, 5)

Daily, people disobey God's plan and will upon the earth. Many are disobedient and do not cooperate with the Lord. That means that God is not "sovereign" as many think. God is not controlling everything. If He was, then He would make everybody receive salvation right now and we would enter the millennial reign before nightfall.

Yet, some things are non-negotiable. God will have His "sovereign" way in some matters. Some things, like the coming of the Lord to rule and reign upon the earth will happen. Nothing will stop it. The book of Revelation declares many end-time events that will be unstoppable. That is "sovereignty," but we must qualify this further.

God is not sovereign like the mythical gods of Rome or Greece that could do anything they wanted to do, even if it was immoral or evil. The heathen gods could commit adultery, fornication, murder, treachery, and lie, steal, covet, etc. Regardless of what these “gods” said, they could twist their words at will because they were sovereign and in control of all human actions and activities. People were like puppets on a string or chess pieces on a playing board.

Our God is not like that! Never believe that He is!

Firstly, our God gave us the right to choose between life and death, blessing and cursing (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20). We get to choose whom we will serve and obey (Joshua 24:14, 15). We get to choose between two masters. Either we will choose to serve, love, and be devoted to the Lord Jesus, or we will be serve, love, and be devoted to mammon (Matthew 6:24). To believe or disobey the gospel means that we have a choice (Romans 10:9-16).

Secondly, Jehovah God cannot violate the Word that has come out of His mouth. He will never violate His moral commandments, judgments, or ordinances. If He did renege on His Word and did as He pleased in violation of it, then it would make Him a liar like men. The truth is this:

- God is not a man that He should tell a lie (Numbers 23:19).
- It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18).
- Nothing can nullify the faithfulness of God (Romans 3:3).
- His Word of promise will never return to Him without accomplishing His desired result (Isaiah 55:10).
- Not one of His promises have ever failed (Joshua 23:14, 1Kings 8:56). That is why we can always trust Him!

God’s sovereignty cannot include the unscriptural idea that He can violate His Word or promises. He will not fulfill His plan by violating His principles. Get that straight!

Recap

Here is a summary of the five scenarios concerning rulers in Scripture.

1. Ungodly rulers put in place by people without God’s approval. (Hosea 8:4, Neh. 9:17)
2. Rulers that through murder, war, conquest, or by some other way usurped a seat of authority. Examples are Absalom, Tibni, Athaliah, man of lawlessness-sin-antichrist.
3. Godly rulers operating with God’s authority called and anointed to carry out His will and plan. Examples are David, Josiah, Hezekiah, and others.
4. Rulers that received the anointing to rule but messed it up through rebellion, sin, idolatry, etc. as did Saul, Solomon, and other kings of Judah and Israel.

5. People anointed to rule for a special task ordained by God even though they are not technically followers of God and did not even know Him. Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Hiram (2 Chron. 2:3).

All these facts point out that Romans 13:1-7 is not the only way Christians need to see rulers in government. There is much more to this subject in Scripture. God ordains some rulers. Some rulers are evil and appointed as representatives of Satan's kingdom of darkness. Some rulers received their appointment without God's approval.

Does God Ordain All Human Government? Part 4

To correct wrong assessments and bad theology is important. I believe this area of human government has seen more than a fair share of wrong ideas and very bad interpretations. To get the full strength of this article, please read parts 1-3.

Let me remind you again of the foundation Scripture for this series:

"They have set up kings, but not by Me (the Lord): they have made princes, and I knew it not" (Hosea 8:4a NASB).

1 Timothy 4:1-4

To get Scripturally balanced teaching on human government and rulers, we must look at First Timothy 2:1-4. Those verses have often been used to insist that all officials in government are of God because we are called to pray for them. No, we are to pray for *all* people, whether in government authority or not, because God wants all men to be saved (v. 4). That is irrespective of whether or not they accept God's gift of salvation in Christ. He wants all to come to repentance, even though we know from many Scriptures that not all will (2 Peter 3:9). Some will perish because they reject God's gift by refusing to repent (Luke 13:3, 5, John 3:16).

We are called to pray for government officials whether they are good or evil. It's easy to pray for good government officials, but for evil leaders it can be a real chore. How do you pray for evil leaders? Why should we pray for all rulers?

Paul does not segregate between good and evil leaders in First Timothy 2:1-4. Paul said to pray for them so *"that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."* Prayer for government officials opens the gateway so God can get involved in the affairs of the country! It will not happen without our prayers! What happens when we pray?

At times, our prayers will result in the removal of a usurper and the ordination of one called by God. Our prayers will be answered. That lays a great responsibility on

the Church, its leaders, and the person on the pew. We are all called to pray for those in authority. If they are evil, we can pray for their removal and the installation of godly leaders.

Sometimes, in the process of praying for bad leaders, they repent and things are turned around. Other times, they are booted out of office and replaced because they refuse to repent. Thank the Lord that government does not have to stay in the hands of evil people!

In America, some received their appointment by popular vote, and not because the Spirit of the Lord called them to a governmental office. Many career politicians need to go. Many in Washington D. C. and state government are Satan's appointees.

False prophets

How can we tell if a government official is one of Satan's appointees? They are easy to discern. Jesus said that we would know the wolves in sheep's clothing, the false prophets, by their fruits (Matthew 7:15-23). People think of false prophets as only existing in a religious context. The truth is that anyone with a voice in the world in opposition to God and His holy Word can fall into the category of a false prophet.

There are many false prophets in media, government, business, and in the arts. They use their voice in the world to push immorality, homosexuality, murder of the innocent unborn children (abortions), theft, covetousness, and other sins and vices. Those false prophets are soft on corruption in government, business, and elsewhere. False prophets mock Judeo-Christian moral principles according to the Bible and shower with favor all that the Bible calls evil. They call evil that which is good. They malign and pervert what is good and call it evil (Isaiah 5:20).

There was a flagrant disregard for truth and equity in much of the government under Obama. We saw an increase in anti-God and anti-Christian laws. Change began under Trump, but we are praying for massive changes and widespread repentance. We are praying that those upholding anti-Bible views will shortly be gone from office, and new leaders that support Judeo-Christian principles will come forth. Glory to God! God hears the prayers of His people, and there are thousands (if not millions) of us praying for a drastic transformation in America. People are crying out to God for revival and He will grant it abundantly. Great revival will come on the heels of great repentance.

Our vote

Are we *required* to vote for any candidate that God does not call to that office? Are we forced to vote in America? No, we are not. Don't be deceived. Be led by the Holy Spirit and by His Word. Obey the Lord and not men. Vote for men and women that clearly support Bible morality and our Constitution.

The second President of the United States, John Adams said this: *“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”* That is the reason that today so much of our Constitution and Bill of Rights have been under the scrutiny of the ungodly. Many want to change it or modify it to accommodate their anti-God ideas. We have been seeing this happening right before our eyes. The Constitution makes little sense to the ungodly! Our Constitution was meant for moral and religious folks. By religious folks, John Adams meant Bible-believing Christians and Jews. The Constitution was based on Bible principles, and it only makes sense to those that agree with The Book! That holy Book is not the Qur’an or any other religious book! It is the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments! None others apply!

I will only vote for those that are Bible believers guided by its moral principles, and by those that will uphold the Constitution (and the Bill of Rights) of the United States. All others will never get my vote.

I don’t care if all my family voted a certain way for generations because “our folks vote that way.” I will not follow the crowd that resists God by casting a vote for people that support immoral behavior and want to diminish our Constitution and change it to conform to the ungodliness prevalent in our society.

I pray that America comes to repentance and that a massive revival for God, Jesus, and all the things of the Lord strikes our land! May His Holy Spirit flood our streets and permeate our country in the Name of Jesus!

Does God ordain all Human Government? God’s Control and Sovereignty? Part 5

Let me share another misunderstood and misapplied verse about human government.

The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord like channels of water; he turns it wherever he wants (Proverbs 21:1 NET).

That verse has been distorted many times to insist that all king’s or government leaders can have their hearts turned to the Lord in whatever direction He wants. That idea assumes that all rulers are like puppets on a string, and God is the master puppeteer! That posited idea takes away from human beings all powers of decision and makes them automatons that are forcibly subject to the divine will. If God could do that with kings and government leaders, or any human being for that matter, why not do that with the unsaved on planet earth? Why not force everyone to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, and mandate that everyone to go to heaven? We could start the Millennium tomorrow and get on with eternity if that were the case! That isn’t the case because human beings can choose their eternal destiny, and they have

a choice in this life to serve or disobey God.

The right to choose

From the beginning, God gave people the right to choose, and it has never been rescinded! He commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and that IF they did eat of the forbidden tree, then they would die (Genesis 2:17). God gave them a choice, but they chose the wrong thing and suffered the consequences. It was not God's plan that they choose evil, but they did, and God respected their choice. If God was sovereign as people think, as in full control of all circumstances, why not rebuke the devil and stop sin in the garden? Why not stop the many millennia of the rule of darkness that perverted His creation and brought it a devastating curse?

Many think that God created man to fail and sin. They believe that God in His sovereignty had some purpose in all this damnation and planetary misery. Really? Step back from religion and theology and hear that nonsense for what it is. "Sovereignty" and "God is in control" as taught in much of Christendom is a perverted and twisted traditional religious idea making God into an indiscriminate murderer and destroyer that somehow favors evils to strike mankind for some mysterious purposes. Those ideas make human beings into robotic servants subject to the "control" of the "programmer" (God).

Let's get specific. Those that think that because of God's sovereignty, He is control of all human actions, then what do you do with Hitler, Stalin, Mao, ISIS, and all the evil rulers, empires, and terrorist organizations that have plagued the planet? God would have to be worse than all of them if this human cesspool of evil and bondage were of His design and under His total control.

God sent Jesus. Those that trust and follow Him (believe) will be saved, and those that do not will be damned (John 3:15-18, 36; 12:48; Mark 16:16, etc.). The choice between life and death, blessing or curses, love and hatred, and obedience or disobedience has always been among men. God has never taken it away, and never will! Please take a look at Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; Joshua 24:15; Psalms 119:30; Proverbs 1:29; Isaiah 7:15, 16; Jeremiah 21:8; Matthew 6:24; Philippians 1:10 (NET), and many more.

Get it straight: it is an impossibility to trust and obey the Lord or to distrust and disobey Him unless you have a choice, a right to make a decision. Believing or unbelief is a human choice! God will not force "faith" (faithfulness, trust, obedience) on you any more than He will force unbelief on you.

Does God control all leaders?

"But isn't the obvious meaning of Proverbs 21:1 that, because of His sovereignty, He can control of everyone whenever He wishes?" No, it does not mean that at all, once

you take into consideration Hosea 8:4 and Nehemiah 9:17 and a truckload of other verses!

They enthroned kings without my consent! They appointed princes without my approval (Hosea 8:4a NET)!

They refused to obey and did not recall your miracles that you had performed among them. Instead, they rebelled and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt (Nehemiah 9:17a).

Some kings and princes disobeyed God and refused to do what He said. Have you read the extensive list of kings that disobeyed God in the Old Testament? Most of the kings of Israel and Judah disobeyed and rebelled against the Lord. Most of these rebellious kings usually died off quickly and were replaced by another that usually did worse! There is no way to read First and Second Chronicles and be oblivious to the fact that most kings did not have their hearts in the hand of the Lord! If God could have turned any of the hearts of these kings whenever He wanted, why didn't He turn any of the hearts of the evil kings?

Obviously, something is wrong with the way we have understood Proverbs 21:1 and many other verses that would seem at first glance to imply that "God is in control" of all human affairs and events. If God is completely in control of human events, then how do we account for the death and destruction flooding this planet over millennia? How can we say God is in control of everything with a straight face and see the evil at work on this planet? Is God in control when women are raped, children are sold into slavery, young women are forced to be sex slaves, and Islamic terrorist organizations murder, rape, maim, behead, and knife to death men, women, and children? Only idiotic, ignoramus, anti-Biblical, religious, traditional BUNK could blind a person to believe that God is in control of all that bad stuff. He is not!

I know I am repeating myself, and maybe belaboring the point though using different words, but this subject of sovereignty and "God's control" are too important to give a lightweight answer.

In the sense that God's prophetic words concerning our planet will happen, yes, He is in control of that! The promised return of Jesus to rule and reign on the earth will occur no matter what anybody decides or chooses against it! The Book of Revelation will happen regardless of who is in government and who is not! Some events will transpire no matter what anybody believes or does because God said it, and His Word will accomplish what He wants (Isaiah 55:11). He is sovereign and in control where these events are concerned, but He is not ruling over the human will when people decide to disobey and rebel against Him and follow the devil. As far as humanity and their right to choose, God is not in control of their wrong choices or their corrupt activities.

Jesus said that the thief is the one that comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

To believe that evil comes because God is in control means that you believe that God is the thief! Yes, God does allow a lot of evil stuff because many human beings have rejected Him, embraced the darkness and false religions, and they are in Satan's territory as the "destroyer." People choose darkness, and they reap the "benefits" of destruction and death. The wages of sin is still death (Romans 6:23)! When people choose evil and disobedience against God and His holy commandments, He turns them over to their enemies. As one example among many, read Judges 2:7-23. This truth is taught excessively in the Bible from cover to cover!

There were kings and princes ordained by people that were never in God's plan. We could say that people "voted them in" without God approval.

We have some kings in Scripture that lived during a particular time in history where God had His Word on the line concerning His people. Sometimes God put a "decision" in their hearts to do something in line with His will and they obeyed. Other times, judgment came against some of them until they obeyed. He can do that whenever necessary!

One prominent example was Nebuchadnezzar. He disobeyed the Lord and was severely judged to wander the earth for seven years with the mind of an animal. When He recognized God and was willing to obey Him, the kingdom was restored to him, and he was reinstated as King of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar was a part of a greater plan that had to do with God's people. Because of their sin, God turned over the nation of Israel to Nebuchadnezzar. (See the book of Jeremiah.) He took thousands into captivity, and they were to remain in that land for a minimum of seventy years. The prophet Jeremiah spoke the Word of the Lord concerning Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, and the exile of the sons of Israel. There was a divine Word in place, and events had to line up to fulfill the Word of the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar was a key player in these developments.

Pharaoh continued to oppose the Word of the Lord that Moses proclaimed concerning the release of Israel from Egyptian bondage. He hardened his heart and God agreed, in turn, allowing the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. Through ten judgments, Pharaoh complied with the Word of the Lord. Again, a Word was spoken to Abraham and his descendants, and it was necessary for the Lord to bring it to pass (Genesis 15:13, 14).

There are occasions like those, but those are not the usual succession of events in the earth. Kings and all government leaders have a choice to make whether or not they will serve the Lord, and whether they will be a force for good or evil.

If Proverbs 21:1 were taken to refer to kings in the same predicament as Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar, I would have to agree on one level. However, this verse makes no mention of supernatural events changing the heart of a king. Supernatural events could be what are necessary to turn the heart, and force a leader to obey the Lord.

When the Lord started showing me that the Scripture had much to say on this subject of good or evil human government, this verse in Proverbs 21:1 stared back into my face. At face value, one almost couldn't help giving it the standard interpretation of "God makes kings obey His will whether they want to or not because God is in control of their hearts." I knew in my heart something was wrong with that interpretation when I compared this verse with other verses on the same subject. I prayed over it, and some light began to come from the Lord.

The king in Proverbs 21:1

First, who is the king in Proverbs 21:1? If we can get that question answered, then we can start to unravel this verse in our thinking. Was Solomon speaking of a particular king, or was his statement a reference to all world leaders? People want to make this verse applicable to all kings, presidents, and prime ministers. I believe that is a mistake.

Who was this king mentioned by Solomon? I am convinced Solomon was speaking of himself as the king whose heart was in the hand of the Lord. Solomon gave his heart over to the Lord as a young man. He asked God to give him a wise and discerning heart so he could judge the people of Israel in righteousness. God granted his request in a powerful way.

"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: "...see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you" (See 1 Kings 3:9-12 NKJV abbreviated).

Solomon's heart was in the hand of the Lord as the channels of water because he submitted his heart to the Lord and received a wise and discerning heart from Him. The phrase "heart in the hand of the Lord" speaks of someone who submits his or her life to God to do His will and carry out His plan. Though Solomon deviated from the Lord later in life, for many years, he served the Lord and did His will. Solomon's heart (life) was in the hands of the Lord, and God could lead him as He wanted.

Often proverbs can stand by themselves, but sometimes we see certain subjects grouped together. Proverbs 21:1 has been pulled from its context. It is not referring to a wicked heart as being in the hands of the Lord. This verse speaks of a righteous king as the one whose heart in the hand of the Lord.

Let me give you a few verses before and after Proverbs 21:1 to put it in context.

Proverbs Chapter 20

- A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes. V.8

- *A wise king sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them. V. 26*
- *The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart. V. 27*
- *Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head. Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart. V. 28-30*

Proverbs Chapter 21

- *The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. V.1*
- *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts. V.2*
- *To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. V.3*

Again, Solomon's subject king in Proverbs 21:1 is a righteous king. Only a righteous king can have his heart in the hand of the Lord. Unrighteous kings had hearts that were far from the Lord. The exceptions to that are kings that don't know God, but they are willing to obey the Lord in whatever He wants for His people. Good examples are Cyrus and Artaxerxes (Ezra 1 and Nehemiah 2).

Look at some of these references in connection with the preceding statements: Ezra 6:22, 1 Kings 11:2-9, 15:3, 2 Kings 10:31, see 2 Chron. 6:38, 12:14, 15:12-15, 19:9, 26:16, 32:25, 26, 34:27, 31, 36:13.

I trust that this series has helped you understand a controversial subject. Be blessed in your study of the Word!