

Lesson 11: Righteousness Exalts a Nation

MEMORY VERSE: “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.” (Prov. 14:34)

Governments are God-Ordained Institutions

- **21:1** – The king's _____ is in the hand of the LORD, like the _____ of water; He _____ it wherever He _____.
- **Romans 13:1-5** – For what purposes does God raise up governments?
 - Think of Egypt, Israel, Assyria, Babylon, and Rome as examples.

- Both the righteous and the wicked kings are ordained by God. (1 Chr. 28:4-5; Jer. 27:5-8; Dan. 2:21; 4:32; John 19:11).

Duties of a Godly Government

- **1 Tim. 2:1-4** – Why should we pray for our leaders? What effect does their duties have upon our preaching of the gospel?

- **1 Peter 2:14** – Punishment of evildoers and rewarding good behavior.
 - What types of punishment are mentioned in Scripture?

 - **Acts 25:11** – Some may object to the death penalty today, but did Paul object to it? Did Jesus object to the government's right to execute criminals?

 - What does delayed punishment do for the criminals (**Eccl. 8:11**)?

 - Write what each proverb says about king's duty to deal with crime.
 - **16:14**
 - **20:2,8,26**
 - **25:2-5**

Traits of a Godly Government

Practical Wisdom for Living

List the qualities that God does or does not want from government leaders.

- 8:15-16
- 14:28
- 16:10,12
- 17:7; 29:12
- 19:10
- 20:28
- 28:15,16
- 29:4,14
- 31:1-4

A Christian's Duty Toward His Government

- Read the following verses and write down specific responsibilities we have toward our rulers.
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-2
 - 1 Peter 2:17
 - Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-16
 - Prov. 24:21-22; Eccl. 8:3
 - Matt. 22:15-22; Romans 13:6-7
- More Proverbs concerning our relationship with our leaders.
 - 16:13,15; 22:11
 - 22:29
 - 23:1-3
 - 25:6,7

Hidden Treasures

"...search for her as for hidden treasures."

Questions for thought: At what level can a Christian participate in government? Go back and research those in the Bible who were at different levels of government (like Daniel or Joseph) and see what God expected of them.