

God's Word on Governing

A Study
Through Discussion

Part I: Who Governs?

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I. WHO GOVERNS?

“A just God presides over the destinies of nations.”

- Patrick Henry-

- Do you think God is really running things? Even in the courtroom? Do you act as if He is?
- Do you go about your life as if God is actually governing what happens around you, or do you proceed more on the assumption that He is simply watching with interest?
- Does your way of leading your professional life reflect an assumption that God simply predicted how the actions of men would unfold, or do you act in the conviction that He intervenes so that His purpose comes to pass?
- Does He intervene in both large *and* small affairs?

CONSIDER the following cases:

1. a) How did David view the tenure of kings and rulers? I Chron. 29:12, 22.

What two offices (at least) are in principle involved in the government of a people?

- b) How did Isaiah view this question of tenure? Is. 40:22-24

What agricultural simile is used? Why?

- c) How did Daniel view the tenure question? Dan. 2: 21

What primary understanding does God seek in the hearts of kings and presidents?

- d) Paul? Acts 17:26; Rom. 13:1

Name two aspects of nationhood in these passages that God superintends.

- e) Jesus Christ? John 19:11

What authority might Pilate have had apart from God's delegation?

2. a) How did Solomon view the continuing relationships between rulers and the Lord?
Proverbs 21:1; 29:26

How can it be that God has given authority to judges who sometimes make mistakes, yet we are to surely expect justice to come from God?

- b) What warning does the psalmist give to kings and rulers? Psalm 2:10-12
- c) In Psalm 22:28, 47:8, and 67:4 we see the verbs “rules,” “reigns,” “judges,” and “guides. In these verses, who are the subordinates over whom God exercises these this governance?
3. How is the activity of God that is implied by Romans 13:1 logically related to the activities affirmed in Ephesians 1:11 or Romans 8:28?

Discuss, in light of these passages, ways in which God deals with governments.

4. What might be an appropriate response to these awesome truths, even here and now? In the nature of praise? In the nature of mediation? Psalm 145:3-5; 150:6.

*“ ..my fervent supplications to that
Almighty Being who rules over the universe,
who presides in the councils of nations...”*

George Washington