

# God's Word on Governing

A Study  
Through Discussion

**Part II: Power & Stewardship**

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## II. POWER AND STEWARDSHIP

*"Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."*

-Thomas Jefferson

- If God rules over rulers, are rulers only stewards?
- In what ways does God exercise His governing power over those who have received authority from him?
- What principles do we see that may be applicable to our stewardship under Him (as nations, communities or individuals)?

### CONSIDER:

1. a) What did the leadership and people of Judah do with the special authority and opportunities they received? Habakkuk 1:2-4
- b) What did the Lord say He was doing about it? Hab. 1:6; Jer.27:2-7; 28:14
- c) What opportunities did the Lord provide Judah to avoid or mitigate the severity of retribution for its corruption?

13 What opportunity for all the cities, before any subjection to Babylon? Jer. 26:2-3,

What opportunity after Judah was subjected to Babylon and had unsuccessfully rebelled? Jer.27:11-13

What opportunity for the people after Judah rebels again and Jerusalem is surrounded? Jer:38:2-3

What opportunity for the king and his following when capture of Jerusalem was near? Jer.38:17-18

- d) What was the king's response to his final opportunity? Jer. 38:19-20, 24
- e) What happened to the people in Judah who had most suffered under the nobility? Jer.39:10

2. a) What question did Habakkuk put to the Lord about the revealed future judgment of Judah by the hand of the Chaldeans of Babylon? Hab. 1:13 (see vv. 12-16)

How valid was Habakkuk's description of the Chaldeans (Babylonians, particularly those of the south) and his comparison of them with their neighbors?

- b) What indirect answer had the Lord already given to the prophet's question?  
Hab.1:11

Did God provide any direct word in answer to Habakkuk's observation that the more righteous (less wicked?) were swallowed up by the (more) wicked?

- c) What retribution is revealed to be in store for the Chaldeans for their transgressions? Hab. 2:7-8

3. Do God's principles applied to judges and other authorities apply to all of us?  
Psalm 75:2-7

What two general categories of persons are warned that God is actively in charge of promotions and demotions? vv 4-5

Who are encouraged as to promotions? v.10

To what four things might many people aspire, yet misperceive from whose hand they come? 1 Chron. 29:12

What greater power does the Lord have that puts in perspective the lesser power of "raising up" and "bringing down"? I Sam.2:6-8

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?"*

Luke 12:6