

God's Word on Governing

A Study
Through Discussion

Part III: Promotion

By Curran Tiffany

III. PROMOTION

*“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west--
but God is the judge.”*

-Psalm 75:2-7

- Do the best qualified get promoted, or do "time and chance overtake them all"
Eccl.9:11
- What principles relating to God's promotion of authority can be discerned in Scripture? What principles or case law do you see in the cases of men and women in Scripture? Do His principles for judging kings apply to us? Psalms 75:2-5 show He judges "with equity" all who dwell on earth. The boastful, the wicked and the prideful are particularly warned. And "the righteous will be lifted up." v.10
- To what four things do people aspire, yet misperceive how they come? Riches, honor, power and might. 1 Chron.29:12. You will be blessed in reading David's prayer.vv10-19
- What greater power of the Lord puts in perspective His power to promote or demote? 1 Sam.2:6-8

CONSIDER:

1. The principle stated: Proverbs 22:29

What does it mean to "stand before kings"?

2. Examples reflecting various principles:

- a) Joseph

Gen. 39:1~5

What was the basis of Joseph's success? v.2

Who benefited from Joseph's promotion? v.5

Gen. 39:21-23

What pattern or principle of blessing is discerned again is promoted even in jail?

Gen. 41:37~41

What pattern of promotion is seen in the three cases?

Gen. 39:7-9

What is seen of Joseph's character? How might this relate to promotion?

b) Daniel 1:3-5, 8-20

What did Daniel first do when the king assigned to him and his co-trainees food which violated their religious obligations? v 8

What did he do when his request was tentatively rejected? vv 11-12

Who did Daniel propose should make a final decision? v 13

What additional benefits accrued after completion of the test? v. 17

Do you see any principle for a servant's approach to a potential conflict of loyalties?

c) Mordecai

Esther 2:21-23; 6:1-3; 9:4; 10:3

Can you picture feelings, while in an alien land, toward a king who had exercised a royal prerogative in taking a beloved (adopted) daughter from your care and into his harem?

(Esther 2:7-8)

What makes it appear that God especially intervened in the promotion of Mordecai?

What traits of servant character were exemplified by both Mordecai and Joseph?

3. Summary: What common principles or factors concerning promotion do you see in God "raising up" Joseph, Daniel, and Mordecai?