

God's Word on Governing

A Study
Through Discussion

Part IV: Demotion

By Curran Tiffany

IV. DEMOTION

- Will God “throw the rascals out”?
- What principles can you find in relation to God's demotion of authority?
- How might these principles apply to any authority you hold, or aspire to?
As a parent? As a professional? As an-employer or manager?

CONSIDER:

(As you consider these cases, remember that examples of past cases may not tell us who will be demoted in the future or when it will occur. These case studies can show us factors involved and things to seek or avoid in our own conduct.)

1. Saul

a) 1 Sam. 13:11-14

How would you characterize Saul’s answer in verses 11 and 12, to Samuel’s question?

What commandment did Saul fail to keep?

b) I Sam. 15:1-3, 9-11, 22-24

What did Saul say about his disobedience in this instance? (v.20-21)

Who was responsible for sparing the livestock? (vv.15, 21)

What major principle of priority was stated by Samuel? (vv.22-23)

After Saul's disobedience, what two unfavorable characteristics do you see in Saul's response to Samuel?

What aspects of these two incidents stand out to you in God's demotion of Saul?

2. Rehoboam II Chron. 10:12~19; 12:1-9

With what mistake did Rehoboam begin his reign? (v. 13. c.f. Prov.11:14)

What happened to the king as a consequence?

What later wrong was chargeable to Rehoboam and his (remaining) subjects? (12:1)

What lesson does the Lord determine to teach the king and princes'? (v.8)

What caused the Lord to spare them from a more severe punishment? (v.7)

What aspects stand out to you in God's two demotions of Rehoboam?

3. Jeroboam

II Chron. 11:14-15; 13:9, 15, 19-20

What offense undermined Jeroboam's eligibility to be king?

What was Jeroboam's fate?

Do you see any counterparts of Jeroboam's offense among leaders of today

4. The Prince of Tyre

Ezekial 28:2-7

What is the essence of this ruler's offense?

What fate does the Lord decree?

What similarity and what difference do you see in the case of Jeroboam and the case of the ruler of Tyre?

5. Application and Self-Examination

In what way might you (or a client whom you counsel) offend in a way that is (in principle) similar to an error of one of these four rulers? Perhaps by:

- Taking charge where you may not have jurisdiction?
- Failing to pursue remedies where a client has so instructed?
- As a parent, insisting on your decision where a measure of flexibility might have kept a teenager willingly under your regime?
- As an employer, by using less than honorable means to bind the loyalty of those with whom you deal?
- Acting in the attitude that your talent, your firm, your standing at the bar, your clients, your resources----will sustain and gain you honor in the days ahead?