

### 92.3 Rulers, Their Character, and Consequences

**Proverbs 29:2** (NKJV) is a verse for all ages. This scripture describes every potential scenario for governments in a broad way. Hear the Wise Man's words:

**<sup>2</sup>When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;  
But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.**

In my lifetime, I have seen ethical political leaders and evil ones. This text rings true because righteous rulers have a heart for people, while the ungodly seek their own best interests.

When Rehoboam succeeded his father, Solomon as king of Israel, he ignored the advice of his older counselors and listened to the younger ones. As a result, the new king increased the already high tax load on the people, and they groaned. Jeroboam I led ten tribes to secede and established the northern kingdom of Israel, leaving two tribes in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Israel had the most excellent civil laws in the history of the world, which God lovingly gave them. Yet, demoralizing leaders failed to follow God's directions, and the people groaned. There were no righteous kings in the northern kingdom, and because of their unfaithfulness, they eventually led their nation into Assyrian captivity. The southern kingdom of Judah had some good and many evil kings, but finally, the people groaned under the weight of the Babylonian captivity.

A country is only as good as its leadership. In America, we think the Constitution governs us, but people do. Our leaders choose to either follow the Constitutional precepts or dictatorial strategies. The people can demand compliance with the Constitution or ignore its abuse, and we see the latter playing out before our eyes.

**John Mercer** was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention he affirmed this idea:

***It is a great mistake to suppose that the paper we are to propose will govern the United States. It is the men whom it will bring into the government and interest in maintaining it that are to govern them. The paper will only mark out the mode and the form. Men are the substance and must do the business.***

If American citizens ignore the character of our leaders and neglect electing godly leaders, the government will naturally be corrupt. Our privilege to vote is one of our most substantial Christian responsibilities, which we do not take lightly. **Samuel Adams** spoke out about voting.

***Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual – or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.***

We understand there are consequences to our elections. Many doubt that we have had fair elections, but if we have had fair elections, they reflect the poor character of our people. **President James Garfield** was a Minister during the Second Great Awakening. While serving in Congress, he reminded the American people of their connection to politicians.

***Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature. . . .***

If we judge the morality and godliness of our political leaders, for the most part, they are wanting. Americans, as a whole, tolerate and celebrate the immoral and deceitful. As a result, we groan under our leaders' harsh mistreatments.

**Charles Finney**, an evangelist of the Second Great Awakening, whom I have quoted regarding the responsibility of the pulpit, also warned:

*The church must take the right ground in regard to politics . . . The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics. . . God cannot sustain this free and blessed country which we love and pray for unless the Church will take the right ground . . . Christians must do their duty to the country as part of their duty to God. . . He will bless or curse this nation based on the course they take.*

We didn't ask to be born in America or with the form of government we have, but God placed us here to be good stewards of the country. We are here "*for such a time as this.*" The stories of the talents in **Matthew 25** and Minas in **Luke 19** illustrate this principle. None of the servants in the stories requested money from their Master, but he held them accountable for the investments he required of them.

God gave us a marvelous country and avenue to elect righteous people to lead us into rejoicing. We have allowed the election process to deteriorate with dark money and unethical leaders so that we groan under their wicked rule. The fight to reestablish integrity in our system will be long and hard and may not be possible. Yet, each of us, whether we are five, two, or one talented people, can do our part to restore the original intentions of our Founding Fathers.

Let's do our part now and pass the baton to the next generation, making disciples as we go. Take hope in this verse, **Proverbs 29:16** (NKJV):

**When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases;  
But the righteous will see their fall.**

Keep The Light of Righteous Involvement in Our Country Burning!

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