



“Wisdom and Government”

Ecc1. 8:1-9

July 12, 2020

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- 1 **Who is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face to beam.**
- 2 I say, "Keep the command of the king because of the oath before God.
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- 4 Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?"
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- 6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, though a man's trouble is heavy upon him.
- 7 If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen?
- 8 No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death; and there is no discharge in the time of war, and evil will not deliver those who practice it.
- 9 All this I have seen and applied my mind to every deed that has been done under the sun wherein a man has exercised authority over another man to his hurt.

10 wisdom principles that instruct us
how to relate to government.

1 Who is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face to beam.

- I. **Wisdom will change your appearance about government.**
 - Solomon is a king writing about how to get along with the king.
 - Answer to both questions in vs. 1 is: No one.
 - **“interpretation”** - פִּשְׁטָר - pay-shar - solution, interpretation.
 - In Solomon's day, the king had far-reaching power over his subjects. Therefore it became imperative to avoid his wrath.
 - If you are wise, wisdom will give you confidence which in turn, will be reflected on your face.
 - Wisdom brings joy because a person who has biblical wisdom is assured of what is right.
 - What do others see when they look at you? Do you have joy? If not, perhaps it's because you aren't taking in the wisdom of God's Word. It's not being integrated into your life and giving you joy.
 - So to please the King will require wisdom.
 - To deal with our government will require wisdom.
 - Who is our “King?” 3 branches:
 - Executive – Legislative – Judicial
 - In Solomon's time, the king possessed all of those responsibilities within his person.

“10 Truths Every President Needs to Know” Proverbs 16:1-15

August 7, 2016

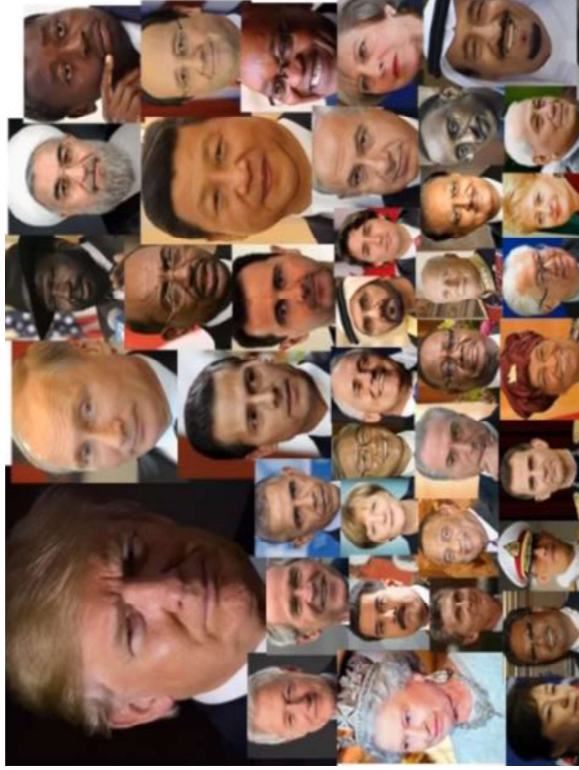
1. **GOD CONTROLS YOUR TONGUE.**
2. **GOD KNOWS YOUR MOTIVES.**
3. **GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERYTHING.**
4. **GOD PUNISHES PRIDE.**
5. **GOD LOOKS AT YOUR CHARACTER.**
6. **GOD CONTROLS WHERE YOU GO AND WHAT YOU DO.**
7. **GOD WILL “WEIGH” YOUR PRESIDENCY WITH ALL OF THE FACTS.**
8. **GOD WILL SUSTAIN A PRESIDENCY THAT UPHOLDS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
9. **GOD WANTS YOU TO SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THOSE WHO ARE WISE.**
10. **GOD WILL USE YOUR “RIGHTEOUS” LEADERSHIP TO BE A BLESSING TO OUR NATION.**

Neh 1:11-2:2

1:11 . . . Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

2:1 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

2 So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid.



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3 "Do not be in a hurry to leave him. Do not join in an evil matter, for he will do whatever he pleases."

4 Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?"

5 He who keeps a royal command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure.

6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, though a man's trouble is heavy upon him.

7 If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen?

8 No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death; and there is no discharge in the time of war, and evil will not deliver those who practice it.

9 All this I have seen and applied my mind to every deed that has been done under the sun wherein a man has exercised authority over another man to his hurt.

2 I say, "Keep the command of the king because of the oath before God.
ii. Wisdom looks beyond those in government to One who is higher in control.

- There will be times when obeying the government will not be very convenient, when it will interfere with other things you want to do -
 - You may be summoned for jury duty just as you are leaving for vacation.
 - You may incur a zoning restriction in regard to some change you want to make in your home or some building you want to erect for your business.
 - You may not want to pay your taxes because you feel that they are a heavy burden.
- Human government has the right to collect taxes, to call people to jury duty, to draft soldiers into the army, to supervise businesses, education, medicine, to require people to wear masks, to require businesses to shut down for a period of time, to refrain from large gatherings, to shelter in place.
- When someone would enter into service of the king he would take an oath before God to be loyal to the king.
- To disobey the command of the king was to break your oath before God. Disobedience to one was disobedience to the other.
- Citizenship is serious. If you share in the blessings of government in a nation such as ours, you are also responsible to obey the authority and laws of that government.
- When you pledge allegiance to your country, God takes your pledge seriously.

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"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all."

3 "Do not be in a hurry to leave him. Do not join in an evil matter, for he will do whatever he pleases."
III. Wisdom is careful not to be hasty in judgment nor quick to join in a revolt against the government.

- Do not be quick to turn your back government and take matters into your own hands.

Esther 2:21-23

21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

22 But the plot became known to Mordecai and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

23 Now when the plot was investigated and found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.

4 Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?"

IV. Wisdom submits to the authority of government rather than always questioning government's authority and power and the decisions it is making.

- Government retains its authority under God.
- This is more than asking a simple honest question. This is criticism.
- We submit and we also vote. In some nations there is no vote. Our voice and criticism can come through our vote.

5 He who keeps a royal command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure.

V. Wisdom chooses to obey the government and knows the proper channels and ways to be an influence for righteousness.

- When you drive the speed limit, you don't have to worry about speed traps.
- When you pay your taxes, you don't have to worry about an IRS audit.
- When you follow the building code, you don't need to worry about violations.
- When you close down your restaurant during a pandemic, you don't need to worry about the repercussions of keeping it open.
- We need to really think through how best to approach a problem that concerns government, and we should act only after we have made a careful decision.

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VI. Wisdom exercises patience in properly going through the right channels of government, even though their subject is of great concern.

“delight” - **נִשְׂמְתָה** - chephets – event, matter, joy, delight.

• Same kind of wording as 3:1 –

Ecc1 3:1

1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven –

• God is sovereign over the affairs of government and those who are in government – therefore be patient. Handle it correctly.

Ps 22:28

8 For the kingdom is the Lord's

And He rules over the nations.

Prov 21:1

1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord;

He turns it wherever He wishes.

Dan 2:21

21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs;

He removes kings and establishes kings;

7 If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen?

VII. Wisdom stays away from foolish speculation and prediction for the future of a government.

Is. 46:9-10

9 I am God, and there is no one like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning,

And from ancient times things which have not been done,

Saying, 'My purpose will be established,

And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Let's just think about God's timing for a moment –

• How quickly did it take to knock down the Berlin wall? It occurred over one weekend.

• How quickly did it take for the Soviet socialistic republic to split apart? Not long.

• How long did it take for ancient Babylon to fall? 1 night.

• How long did it take for the wicked Haman in the book of Esther when all looked grim for the Jews, to be disposed of? A few days.

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VIII. Wisdom recognizes that man has little control over what happens in the world.

Solomon offers four examples of an individual's lack of control over life:

(1) No one can restrain the wind with the wind,

(2) No one can control the day of his or her death,

(3) No soldier can discharge himself in time of war,

(4) Wicked deeds can never deliver evil doers.

• Since man has no control over so many things in life, no one has the solution to every problem or the answer to every question that might arise in our nation.

• Events that are beyond the control of everybody deny to everyone the ability to say what tomorrow holds.

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IX. Wisdom warns us that not correctly submitting to the government's authority can have grave consequences.

- Solomon observed and thought about how kings exercised their authority over those under them. His conclusion was that it is dangerous to disobey the authority of the king.

Kingdom of Darkness

- Unbelievers
 - Identity: World
- Eph 2:1-4**
 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
2 Peter 1:4
 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
1 John 5:19-20
 19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Kingdom of Light

- Believers
 - Identity: Christ and His Church.
- 1 Peter 2:9**
 9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

X. Wisdom instructs the believer to know his identity, his authority, his humility, and his ministry.

His identity:

Who does the believer identify with living in this world – a political party, a moral cause, a President, a nation?

His authority:

How much impact does a believer have towards influencing government?

His humility:

How does the believer act toward those in authority over them?

His ministry:

What is the mission of every believer living here on this earth?

You are a chosen **RACE**
 A Royal Priesthood
A HOLY NATION A people for His own possession
A PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF Him who YOU
that you may
 Out of **DARKNESS** into **HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT**.
Once YOU were not a PEOPLE, but now YOU are God's PEOPLE. 2:9-10
Once you had not received MERCY,

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2 Cor 5:17
 7 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2 Cor 5:20
 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
John 18:36
 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Kingdom of Darkness

- Unbelievers
- Identity: World

Kingdom of Light

- Believers
 - Identity: Christ and His Church.
- Rom 13:1-4**
 13 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;
 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

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- Identity: Christ and His Church.
- 1 **Peter 2:13-16**
13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

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- James 1:27**
27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to **keep oneself unstained by the world.**
- James 4:4**
4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- Phil 2:14-16**
14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;
15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,
- Acts 2:40**
40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

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Kingdom of Light

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- Rom 12:2**
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 2 Cor 6:14-16**
14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God;

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- John 17:14-19**
14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.
16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."
1 **Tim 2:1-2**
1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Constitution -

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. And, for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

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- Ps 146:3**
3 Do not trust in princes,
7 Some boast in chariots and some in horses,
But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.