



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 43

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Number 33

Kings and Rulers in Proverbs (Part 2)

Barry Grider

Toward whom should the king be kind? First, he should be kind toward those who do right. Wicked rulers should listen carefully to the following, "Also, to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity" (Prov. 17:26). This passage is a parallelism and princes in the latter clause refers not to position but one of noble character. Sometimes we compliment another by saying he is "a prince of a man." A good king will uphold what is right and be kind toward those who do right. Punishment is for the evildoer, not the good citizen (Rom. 13:3,4). In fact, those who sit in positions of authority have the responsibility of protecting good citizens from evil. Even a child realizes when he has been wrongfully punished. Yet, since we live in a society that is bent on calling "evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20), no wonder there are so many inequities in our justice system. Likewise, who can forget about innocent babies who die through abortions because political leaders do not have the courage and strength to oppose this infanticide?

Second, kings should be kind to the poor and needy. Hear these words of admonition, "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy (Prov. 31:9). Far too many who have reached the highest echelons of power have forgotten their roots. No one has more opportunity to help the less fortunate than the one who holds the reins of power. It seems the principle stated in Luke 12:48 would apply here. "...For unto whom much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." In the spiritual realm Jesus pleads the cause of those who cannot help themselves (1 John 2:1). Likewise, those who sit in positions of authority have the responsibility to defend those who cannot defend themselves. While there is much abuse in our tax system, most Americans understand the government should require tax dollars to help our fellow citizens who for legitimate reasons are struggling and downtrodden.

It is true there are those who will take advantage of such kindness. "Many will entreat the favor of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts" (Prov. 19:6). However, God's favor is upon the ruler who shows favor toward the poor. "The King that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established forever" (Prov. 29:14). His throne will be perpetuated.

What about a King who is not kind? The writer of Proverbs says, "As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people" (Prov. 28:15). No one wants to come face to face with a beast that is out for prey. So a king who does not care for the poor is likened unto these vicious animals. He is out to devour them and what belongs to them. He robs them of their children, plunders their land, and takes away their dignity. Again, we read, "the king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favor is a dew upon the grass" (Prov. 19:12). Just as the dew is welcome in the dry season, so a kind king is refreshing toward those oppressed.

Like Rehoboam, the king who is unkind to his subjects is unwise. "The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days" (Prov. 28:16). Notice, again, what preserves the King's throne.

What should the righteous remember when the ruler of the land is not kind, but evil, and the people likewise are evil?

When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall...many seek the ruler's favor, but every man's judgement cometh from the Lord (Prov. 29:16,26).

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Forest Hill

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Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist
Jordan Pugh, Youth

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.... 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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Kings and Rulers in Proverbs (continued from page 1)

Do not rebel nor become disheartened. Do not seek vengeance. The Lord will judge all men, including all those in authority (Rev. 20:12).

The Knowledge of Kings

When Solomon became king over Israel, he prayed unto God,

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing (1 Kings 3:11).

It is good to pray for wisdom (Jam. 1:5). With so much responsibility given to rulers, for sure they need guidance from above. For this reason, rulers should seek the counsel of God, as did Solomon. His prayer was answered. His wisdom is clearly displayed when two harlots came before him, each one claiming that she was the mother of a particular child (1 Kings 3:16ff). Solomon's call, "Bring me a sword" (v.24), caused his fame to spread far beyond his own kingdom (Luke 11:31).

With regard to a king's knowledge, his people expect him to be sound in judgement. Notice, "A divine sentence is in the lips of a king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgement" (Prov. 16:10). A king's word is final and often his word, at least among many nations and cultures, is said to be a dictum from above (God speaking through the king or a theocracy).

Furthermore, what the king does not know, his people expect him to resolve to know and to work out an answer to any dilemma.

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter. The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable (Prov. 25:2,3).

A king who cares very little for the welfare of his people will disregard knowledge. Such will bring about his own demise. "For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged" (Prov. 28:2). History has proven where royal families, political parties, and military tribunals did not seek divine counsel; their countries have always been in a state of upheaval, never enjoying stability, with power always changing hands. Likewise, most of these nations have never enjoyed any degree of prosperity, and more regrettably, have never had access to the gospel.

The king who seeks knowledge will also be perceptive. Often our leaders make decisions that are foolish and through these decisions they demonstrate their refusal to seek divine help. Some do not know how to use the

intelligence God has given them. However, a king who seeks wisdom from above will be able to clearly discern between right and wrong, good and evil. Solomon had this in mind when he wrote, "A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes" (Prov. 20:8). Since he is perceptive of evil, he quickly seeks to drive it far away from his people (v. 26). Once this is accomplished, the king brings peace to the land (Prov. 29:4,8).

The Righteousness of Rulers

If one is interested in righteousness, he is interested in doing right. Often politicians will give lip service to honesty, character, and integrity. However, many in public office are self-serving and have little regard to what is right. One who understands righteousness will seek out the divine standard for righteousness, God's holy Word.

Righteous rulers bring blessings to the people: "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Prov. 29:2). The people rejoice because of freedom, prosperity, tolerance, justice, and equity abound under a righteous ruler. When the nation of Iraq was freed from the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein, that nation's citizens reacted by rejoicing in the streets of their cities (cf. Prov. 28:28).

Righteous rulers enrich the land. "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right" (Prov. 16:8). Some things money cannot buy. Though a nation may fill its coffers full, without morality a nation will fall. The founding Fathers words of wisdom ought to be heeded today. Our system of government will only work for a moral people. I remember when legislation was signed establishing a lottery in Tennessee, those promoting this evil said, "just think about the added revenue it will bring." Little thought was given to the fact that gambling is robbery by mutual consent and along with gambling there is an increase in poverty and crime. However, even if gambling did produce great revenues, I would be opposed because it violates the principles of right.

Righteous rulers bring honor to the nation. "It is abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness" (Prov. 16:12). It has often been said concerning our leaders, "I do not care about his character, as long as he can do the job." I would submit to you a leader cannot do the job well without character. A righteous ruler (one committed to the principles of right) understands the enormity of his position and his influence upon so many. A nation will often take on the character of its leader. Therefore, those who sit in positions of authority understand their public and private behavior is of utmost importance (and the general populace do, as well).

(to be continued)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE:	Evan Manning	Adam Maund
ASSIST:	Jack Braddock	Cason Grider
	Jagger House	Caleb Hull
	Andrew Knipple	Edison Ray

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING:	Marv Sowell
A.M. CLOSING:	Paul Davenport
P.M. OPENING:	Cedric Huff
P.M. CLOSING:	Stephen Ulrich

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of August 14, 2016

BIBLE STUDY:	240
A.M. WORSHIP:	305
P.M. WORSHIP:	195

OUR SICK

Janet Sanders, undergoing tests today at Methodist Hospital.

Virginia Ditto, Kirby Pines Rehab.

Albert House, VA Medical Center.

Garland Elkins, Christian Care Center, Room 220.

Velton Trimm, Christian Care Center, Room 212.

Olivia Miles, granddaughter of Garland & Corinne Elkins, hospitalized in Dallas, Texas.

ILL AT HOME: Corinne Elkins, Gene Gordon and Ray Hilliard.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry	Albert & Ruth House
Virginia Ditto	Clarine Justice
Hazel Eskew	Ryan McCullar
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Helen Palazola
Anita Hopper	Jerry & Betty Robbins



Our sympathy is extended to the family of Jim McCall, who passed away Sunday. There will be a visitation Tuesday, August 16, 6-8 at Collierville Funeral Home and a Graveside Service at West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Wednesday, August 17 at 11:30.



NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Forest Hill,

Please accept my sincere gratitude for the heartfelt sympathy show to Daniel and me in the loss of my sister. The prayers, cards and kind words were all very much appreciated. It is so nice to be a part of such a loving congregation.

Carolyn Hayes

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, August 28.

LEGACY ESTATES worship service each Sunday afternoon 3:00 p.m. conducted by Forest Hill.

DIRECTORY CHANGE: Greer Mangrum, 155 Anderson Hwy, Apt 1031, Clemson, SC 29631.

HEARTS & HANDS

TEAM "C" (Danny Braddock) will receive assignments the week of August 21.

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will meet Saturday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a covered dish luncheon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASSES beginning August 17. Auditorium Class: "Hebrew History: A Study of Samuel and Kings" taught by Barry Grider. Education Building Room 201: "Minor Prophets" taught by Warren Davenport.

LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 in the breakroom of the education building. We will be studying "Seeking Spiritual Beauty" by Sheila Butt. This book can be purchased through amazon.com.

YOUNG ADULTS CANOE TRIP Saturday, August 27 at 8:30 a.m.

Brother Elkins Turns 90!

Brother Garland Elkins, beloved evangelist and MSOP instructor, will celebrate his 90th birthday Friday, August 19. His family requests the honor of your presence at a "Come & Go" birthday celebration Saturday, August 20, 2:00-4:00, at Christian Care Center, 6500 Kirby Gate Blvd, Memphis, TN 38119. It is requested that there be no gifts but cards with loving birthday wishes will be greatly appreciated.

Last week's solution:

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. John 15:4

CORNERSTONE

Replace each letter with a different letter to reveal the scripture.

QGB YRP LINYWYIBP MU YRPL YRQY VPNWPZPB XPKP
MU MGP RPQKY QGB MU MGP JMIN GPWYRPK JQWB
QGD MU YRPL YRQY QITRY MU YRP YRWGTJ XRWFR
RP AMJJPJPB XQJ RWJ MXG; VIY YRPD RQB QNN
YRWGTJ FMLLMG.

L = M

Solution next week

B = D

COMING SOON
FALL 2016



Reorganization Luncheon

Sunday, September 25 after the morning service

All are invited to stay for this covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall.

Flu Shots will be available in the fellowship hall.
Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

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Address Service Requested