

Prov. 19:12: A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

Intro: This week, Lord willing, the United States of America will celebrate its 250 year anniversary. & it “just so happens” that we study a Proverb on kings & government today. How does God view government (Federal; State; Local; Police)? How does God view the United States government or any other government? How should we as Christians view government?

As God’s children, respect & pray for governing leaders & obey them as you would obey God Himself, unless they command you to sin.

1. The Anger Of The King Warns And Destroys

Prov. 19:12: A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

a. Why do lions growl/roar: Lions will use their roar to warn off potential intruders, & to protect their territory & their pride. It is a way of communicating dominance, power, & warning.

Bruce Waltke: The lion, as a proud sovereign, tramples its victims into subjection & tears them fatally with no one to deliver. From antiquity lions have been used to represent the strength & ferocity of rulers (Prov. 30:30; Gen. 49:9; Judg. 14:5-7; 1 Sam. 17:34-47 . . . Rev. 5:5) . . . Its roar is even used to represent God (Isa. 31:4; Jer. 2:30 . . . Hos. 5:14 . . . Amos 3:8). They are also agents of God’s judgment, man eaters sent by the LORD (1 Kings 13:24-28; 20:36; 2 Kings 17:25-26; Isa. 15:9; Dan. 6:27) . . . “A king’s wrath” refers to justified fury, not unjustified . . . to be hot-tempered, however, is always wrong. The king’s unrestrained fury is as dangerous & dreadful as that of a roaring lion who seizes its prey, & no one can deliver it.

b. The anger of the king/ruler will protect you & dominate you: Rom. 13:3-5: For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, & you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Eric Lane: The orderly state is one where those who govern devote themselves to their proper functions: protection & provision, the defense of the realm & its economy. They are given power to protect the people from their enemies, to whom they should appear like a raging lion whose roar deters any predators from attacking his lair.

Esther 7:8-10: And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. & the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." & the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged

Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.

c. Above all other fears, we are to fear the wrath of the King of kings!: Luke 12:4-5: I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, & after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

d. All the kings of the earth will fear Jesus' wrath now or later: Rev. 6:15-17: Then the kings of the earth & the great ones & the generals & the rich & the powerful, & everyone, slave & free, hid themselves in the caves & among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains & rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, & from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, & who can stand?" **GOSPEL!**

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2. The Favor Of The King Will Bless You

Prov. 19:12: A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

- **Bruce Waltke:** The simile "like dew on the grass" depicts [the king's] favor as being life-giving, [healthy], pervasive, penetrating, beneficent, refreshing, reviving, mysterious, & heavenly . . . Dew, which in the climatic conditions of Palestine was essential to the survival of vegetation in the hot, dry summer, is a gift from God that he could either confer on his people or withhold from them . . . The proverb instructs the disciple to avoid the king's fury & to seek his favor.

- **Eric Lane:** The settled & prosperous nations of the world are those where the rulers use their power justly & compassionately. Those who treat their own people as if they were enemies & bestow their favor on outsiders who happen to share their ideology or aims create misery & discontent & invite revolution. This explains the state of many nations in today's world.

- **Rom. 13:3-4:** Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, & you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good.

- **Prov. 16:14-15:** A king's wrath is a messenger of death, & a wise man will appease it. ¹⁵ In the light of a king's face there is life, & his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

Esther 5:2-3: And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, & he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached & touched the tip of the scepter. & the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom."

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3. God, His People, And Government

OBC Statement Of Faith: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

a. Government is ordained by God: Rom. 13:1-7: Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, & those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, & those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, & you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

b. We should obey the government: 1 Pet. 2:11-17: Beloved, I urge you as sojourners & exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds & glorify God on the day of visitation.¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil & to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

c. We don't obey the government when they command us to sin: Acts 5:27-29: when they had brought them, they set them before the council. & the high priest questioned them,²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, & you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."²⁹ But Peter & the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

OBC Statement Of Faith: . . . magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. [Midwives; Daniel (Furnace/Lions)]

d. All governments must & will bow to King Jesus: Phil. 2:5-11: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. & being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted

him & bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christian Nationalism?: I want Christian worldism! I want whole earthism! I'm a Christian Worldist or a Christian Whole Earthist! I hope & pray that every person on earth - from every tribe, tongue, language, & nation (including all civil authorities & magistrates & governments) - will bow the knee to King Jesus, be saved by Him, call Him LORD, & obey all that He has commanded such that everyone sings Psalm 119 & loves & obeys all of His laws with delight. This is the basic prayer in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done! Thy Kingdom come! On earth as it is in heaven!" And we want as much of that to happen NOW as is possible! And we accomplish this primarily by the great commission – making disciples of all nations!

e. Don't idolize government – government is not perfect, but be thankful & pray:

1) Past failures: Frederick Douglas (What To The Slave Is The 4th Of July?, July 5th, 1852):

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour

2) Current failures: Over 1.1 million babies were slaughtered by abortion in America in 2025.

3) Even so, be thankful: You are so blessed! (911, Mercy story); National anthem-Gospel freedom

4) Pray; Proclaim; Protest; Permeate, Pray: 1 Tim. 2:1-2: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, & thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings & all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful & quiet life, godly & dignified in every way.

f. A perfect Governor has come & a perfect government is coming: Isa. 9:6-7: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; & the government shall be upon his shoulder, & his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government & of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David & over his kingdom, to establish it & to uphold it with justice & with righteousness from this time forth & forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Jesus is the Lion King: Rev. 5:1-10: Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within & on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² & I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll & break its seals?" ³ & no one in

heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ & I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ & one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll & its seven seals." ⁶ & between the throne & the four living creatures & among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns & with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ & he went & took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ & when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures & the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, & golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ & they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll & to open its seals, for you were slain, & by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe & language & people & nation, ¹⁰ & you have made them a kingdom & priests to our God, & they shall reign on the earth." **(Rev. 19!)**

Psalm 2:1-12: Why do the nations rage & the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, & the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD & against his Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart & cast away their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, & terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, & I will make the nations your heritage, & the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron & dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, & rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, & you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

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Christ Jesus Is The Lion King
 He's Good, Not Safe And Makes You Sing
 His Wrath Is Kindled – Burns And Stings
 All Those Rejecting Him As King
 So Kiss The Son And He Won't Fling
 You Down To Hell Where Torments Wring
 He Died And Rose – Salvation Brings
 By Faith Alone You're Just And Cling

To Him Alone Who Makes You Spring
 Into Action For Your King
 You'll Honor Governments And Bring
 Submission, Peace In Everything
 Unless It Contradicts Your King
 From Olney, Philly To Beijing
 For Christ Is All – Your Coming King!