

Last week: Who is as a wise man?

The spiritually wise man/woman will tirelessly dig for the wisdom of God in the Word of God, like earthly miners, who dig for earthly treasures. Every one of us, as Christians ought to be “spiritual miners in the Word” like the Bereans.

But the truths of God are not just for finding/knowing & learning; they are also to be believed, obeyed, and lived. Once the spiritual miner’s work of seeking, digging, and finding God’s truth is done....THEN, comes the greater work of believing, obeying, and living THAT “found/revealed truth”. Only then will we be made “godly wise”.

Tonight, (from our passage) what does the wisdom of God teaches us about obedience to our government and civil rulers who have been appointed over us: *Text: Ecclesiastes 8:2-5*

(V2): “I counsel thee to keep the king’s commandment, and that in regard to the oath of God”

First: Wisdom teaches us “obedience to the king”! In our day/time/nation, we don’t have an earthly king, we have the President of the United States, our Governor, and the civil authorities who have been elected and/or appointed over us.

This passage is VERY timely, in that today, at 11AM, (1200 High Noon-DC Time), the new President of the United States took the oath of office. Joseph R. Biden is the “NEW” commander in chief and the leader of our nation and government. Today marked the 59th inauguration in the peaceful transfer of power from the 45th President to the 46th President of the United States.

Now, I have heard people say, “He’s not my president”! Well, This reminds me of the Parable of Luke 19 in which the citizens said, “we will not have this man to reign over us”; of course, that was spoken of a king....

But with all this in mind, let us focus our attention back on (V2): “I counsel thee to keep the kings commandment, and that in regard to the oath of God”:

A synonymous passage in the NT to Ecclesiastes 8:2 could be:

Mark 12:17: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”

This was the Lord Jesus’ answer to the deceitful question from the Pharisees and Herodians on whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. We know that they were trying to force Jesus to speak against Caesar so that they might accuse Him of inciting an insurrection. Caesar Augustus was the King of the civilized world in the time of Christ; if you resisted or disobeyed Caesar, you were going to die. Reminds me of the King in Luke 19:27. We don’t live under the reign of an earthly king, and we don’t know the fear of a sovereign king whose word IS the law.

Proverbs 19:12, 20:2, 8, 24:21, 25:6-7

Remember King Solomon with those 2 women, arguing over whose son died and whose son was still alive! He had the authority, as the King, to have that baby split in 2!

We don’t live under earthly kings like Solomon, be WE DO serve under the Sovereign Rule of the King of kings and Lord of lords; the Lord Jesus Christ. His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom; He rules over all earthly rulers! *Psalm 47:1-2, 103:19*

He will never be impeached and He’s not going to resign!

Therefore, when Solomon wrote, I counsel thee to keep the kings commandment”, as the people of God, our King’s commandment IS to subjugate ourselves to the leaders whom God appoints to rule over us:

In this case: “I counsel thee to KEEP and OBSERVE the laws of the President of the United States, and that in regard to the oath of God”

The scriptures teach us to pray for President Biden as we have prayed for EVERY past president, as we are commanded in 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

And here is the basis for our obedience and submission to the President and our governmental leaders; God put them over us, therefore we are to obey them, for they stand in the place of God.

Romans 13:1-2, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13-15

Here is the LIMIT of our submission; as long as our leaders and our government are not forcing us to do things that are unlawful and against the commandments of our Lord and King, we are to obey them:

BUT if a time comes when our leaders try to enforce laws that are unlawful in the sight of our God; laws that require us to disobey God and betray our loyalty and submission to God and His laws, THAT is when we must disobey the laws of our government and obey the Law of God. This happened in the time of the prophets and apostles; and there were deadly consequences for those servants of God who lived under the rule of kings who refused to disobey God. *Daniel 3:14-18, 6:1-5, 10-13, Acts 5:26-29*

The truth is, brethren, we have lived under many anti-Christian and wicked leaders in this nation; I believe this incoming administration is no different.

They are as anti-God as I have seen in my lifetime. But let us not forget the words of Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4:1-17

Daniel 4:17: Know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men"

In this regard, we are no different from the people of God of previous ages who lived and died under wicked kings and rulers.

But let us never forget that our Kingdom is NOT of this world, our King does not sit on an earthly throne, but in the heavens at the right hand of God; He will take up every cause for His people, for our good and sanctification.