

Salt The Earth

Stewardship Over All The Earth

"It's my life, and I'll do what I want with it." This is what the rebellious have been screaming for ages. But it's not your life. It's God's life. He created you. He owns you. He has entrusted you with a stewardship. How will you manage it?

The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. (Ps 24:1)

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen 1:26)

So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, "Do business with this until I come back.' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. The first appeared, saying, "Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, "Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' The second came, saying, "Your mina, master, has made five minas.' And he said to him also, "And you are to be over five cities.' Another came, saying, "Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, "By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' Then he said to the bystanders, "Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' And they said to him, "Master, he has ten minas already.' "I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence." (Luke 19:12-27)

And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him

in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more." (Luke 12:42-48)

God has given mankind stewardship over the earth. In His Word, God tells us everything pertaining to life and godliness. He has given mankind specific instructions about how He wants us to manage what He has entrusted to us. He wants us to occupy until He returns. Who then is the faithful and sensible steward who will carry out his Master's will? Will the wicked rule the earth God's way? If the righteous are not faithful stewards, the wicked will rule the earth - their way!

Biblical Equation

Pray, then, in this way: '...Give us this day our daily bread...' (Matt 6:9-13)

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. (2 Thess 3:10)

We are to ask God every day to provide food for us, but we are not to sit in our lazy chair and wait for manna to fall into our lap. God's equation is that we have to work in order to prosper, but He wants us to be mindful of the fact that we are always dependent upon Him.

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim 2:1-4)

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matt 5:13-16)

We are to ask God every day to provide righteous government for us, but we are not to sit in our lazy chair and wait for the blessings of liberty to fill our life. Again, God's equation is that we have to work in order to prosper, but we also have to believe that He is willing and able to answer this prayer He told us to pray in 1 Tim 2:1-4.

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor. (Prov 12:24)

When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan. (Prov 29:2)

As faithful stewards we are to salt the earth, diligently bringing the flavor of Christ into every area of life. Whether it's the family, the workplace, or civil government, we are to enlighten our sphere of influence with "the whole message of this life." (Acts 5:20) To preach Jesus is to preach "everything pertaining to life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3)

So that godless men would not rule nor be snares of the people. (Job 34:30)

O My people! Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray and confuse the direction of your paths. The LORD arises to contend, and stands to judge the people. The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people, "It is you who have devoured the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the face of the poor?" Declares the Lord God of hosts. (Isa 3:12-15)

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy. (Prov 31:8-9)

Human rights were written in stone by God when He issued the Ten Commandments. The commandment, "You shall not murder," grants you and everyone else a right to life. "You shall not commit adultery," grants you a right to marry. "You shall not steal," grants you a right to private property. "You shall not bear false witness," grants you a right to reputation. And, "You shall not covet," grants you a right to prosper.

Only the wicked try to infringe upon your rights. Petty thugs do things like break into your home and rob you at gun point. Smart thugs lie, cheat, and steal (oh, and murder) their way into positions of power. They conspire, organize, and manipulate the force of government to devour the vineyard and plunder the poor, crushing God's people and grinding the face of the poor.

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence - it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. --George Washington

We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts - not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution. To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men. --Abraham Lincoln

We Must Enlighten, Empower, and Equip the Nations

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)

We are to GO! We are to get out of our comfort zones and go beyond our spheres of influence. Jonah didn't want to do this, but God was insistent. The message of God's prophets, to both the Jewish people, and to all the nations, has always been to repent. Who will carry God's message today? Who will call your nation to repentance?

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isa 6:8)

Go, stand and speak to the people... the whole message of this life. (Acts 5:20)

Satan makes disciples of the nations by enslaving people to sin and tyrants. He has been very effective throughout history and in the world today. He uses evil men bent on world domination to manipulate the masses by controlling the media and entertainment industry, education, economies, wars, global threats, false religions, and governments.

"Experience has shown that even under the best forms [of government], those entrusted with power have in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny; and... the most effectual means of preventing this would be to illuminate, as far as applicable, the minds of the people at large." --Thomas Jefferson

America's godly heritage is an example of Biblical enlightenment, resulting in physical and spiritual freedom and a high standard of living for the common man. The enemy tries to divert our attention from the task at hand. He wants us consumed with idolatry, the pursuit of pleasure. But through prayer and vigilant labor, we have the opportunity to make disciples of all the nations, including our own.

A monumental task it might seem. Many run and hide from this giant just as the Israelites did from Goliath. Because of a lack of faith, many are willing to become slaves. Only a boy named David saw Goliath as a midget. In fact, to him, the giant was no taller than David's knees. His victorious faith picture was of Goliath lying on the ground with his head lopped off! Who will be a David in our generation?

David said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the

earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands." (1 Sam 17:45-47)

The world forces of darkness have conspired to bring all the nations of the world to their knees. With the necessary consent of elected representatives, tax dollars are misused (foreign aid) to empower evil regimes around the world and to establish global tyranny! The enemy uses the atheist, dictatorial state to oppress Christianity and bring the multitudes into eternal torment! They're BIG, but God's BIGGER!

The LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; the battle is the LORD'S and He will give them into our hands. In the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom the enemy has taunted, the LORD will liberate billions from Satan's grip! We must enlighten, empower, and equip the nations.

Communists strive for power over the entire world. They use violent force to take over many countries, but their scheme for winning America was always to corrupt her from within. A wicked people need many masters. They infiltrated all areas of power and influence to guide America into a global government trap. But who should have been in those positions of power and influence? Who should have been on guard? Who can lead a nation in righteousness and justice? Who is more qualified to lead than those who lead the Lord's church.

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. (1 Tim 3:1-3)

Authority

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven *and on earth*. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)

God's Word authorizes the responsibility and authority of each form of government, with Jesus having authority over all. There are four forms of government that Revolutionaries must drive Satan out of, replacing him with Jesus: Self Government, Family Government, Civil Government, and Church Government.

The overall teaching of Scripture is that God expects us to be in subjection to the authorities He places over us. We are to obey our bosses, our parents, our husbands, the civil authorities and laws, and church leadership. Rebellion to the authorities God has placed over us is rebellion to God. There are very few exceptions to this rule, and



in that rare occasion, we should make every possible effort to remain in subjection while following a peaceful appeal process to seek recourse.

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God... In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior... For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you -- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience -- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. (1 Peter 2:13-20, 3:1-2, 17-22)

We can appeal to God for a good conscience, and we can appeal to every human institution. We can plea, petition, and in some cases even demand that God's laws be followed. In a free country, you can choose your boss, your spouse, and your civil authorities. The smartest path would be to make wise choices to begin with - based



on God's Word - but after a choice has been made, we can influence our rulers by appealing to them. As Jesus' illustration about the diligent widow brings out, persistence pays. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

We simply need to be LOUD, in a zealous and godly way of course. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, and God didn't create a resurrected army so they could hide in church buildings. We need to be out in our communities leading the way in righteousness and justice.

Look around the world and see the results of Muslims leading, or Communists, or Hindus, or Humanists and Socialists and Atheists. Jesus said you'll know them by their fruit. God has given us exactly what we need to combat the evil that is overtaking the world. He has given us the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

In certain cases we may need to use legal appeals as Paul did when he was on trial (Acts 25:11), or as the early American colonies did in every stage of the suppression that they had experienced under the British Crown. There are very few Biblically justifiable reasons to remove oneself from under the authority placed over you, whether it is wives from husbands or citizens from government. Before proceeding, one must pray for God's wisdom and make every possible effort to remain in subjection while following a peaceful appeal process to seek recourse.

Read here in the Declaration of Independence the list of grievances the American colonies had against Britain and see if you agree with their decision:

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more

disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refuted his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.



He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty

& Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. 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. -The Declaration of Independence

God Rules

He is the head over all rule and authority. (Col 2:10)

Jesus told Pilate, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above. (John 19:11)

The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes. (Prov 21:1)

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth... since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. (Acts 17:24-27)

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7)

Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. (Dan 2:20-21)

Throughout history, God has allowed Satan to raise seven, evil, world governments. God used them to judge the earth on a grand scale, just as He had done with a worldwide flood in earlier times, and as He will do with fire at the end. On a smaller scale, God always gives each nation the government it deserves, either righteous or wicked. When righteous people run the government, they serve the public. When wicked people run the government, they tyrannize, oppress, and force the public to serve them and their lust for power.

"Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord GOD, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?" (Ezek 18:23)

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Let us now delve deeper into the Word of God to get a clearer picture of how this spiritual battle is fought. The accuser, Satan, the ruler of this world, seeks to bring terror, oppression, and destruction upon the inhabitants of the world. For the purpose of judgment, sometimes God lets him have his way. (See Job chapters 1 and 2, Mat. 4:8-9, and Rev. 12:12)

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah

into his hand... Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel... for serving in the king's court... (Dan 1:1-4)

Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream." Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap. But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation." (Dan 2:1-6)

Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place. But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

The King's Dream

"You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The Interpretation -- Babylon the First Kingdom

"This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.



Persia and Greece

"After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

Rome

"Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

The Divine Kingdom

"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy." (Dan 2:27-45)

Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome were all blasphemous, pagan, world governments. In Daniel chapter seven, these four world governments are represented as four beasts that came up out of the sea. In a parallel account written almost seven hundred years later, the Apostle John, in Revelation 13, describes them as one beast with seven heads that came up out of the sea. Both Daniel and John use a lion, a bear, a leopard, and ten horns as descriptive imagery. Daniel specifically attributes the ten horns to the fourth beast, Rome.

As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. (Dan 7:24)

The ten kings represent the breakup of the Roman Empire, even as iron does not combine with pottery. The three kings, which were displaced by the one who arose after them, are thought to refer to Lombards, Ravenna and Rome, which were handed over to the Popes as the beginning of their Temporal Kingdom, A.D. 754. (Haley's Bible Handbook)

I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast. (Rev 13:3)

Out of the ashes of the Roman Empire rose the "Holy Roman Empire." Papal Rome ruled the world on a vaster extent, for a longer time, and with a more despotic hand than Pagan Rome had ever done, or any world empire before it. The Popes claimed to be the head of the church and to have authority over the world, thereby taking the seat of Christ. By criminalizing and persecuting the possession of Scripture, they brought the Dark Ages upon the whole earth. (See also 2 Thes. 2:3-4)

He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (Dan 7:25)

There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. (Rev 13:5-7)

A time (= 1), times (= 2), and half a time (= ½) is also used in Revelation 12:14 (1 + 2 + ½ = 3 ½). Three and one half years is identical to forty-two months and twelve hundred and sixty days (Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5), denoting the time that "they will tread under foot the holy city," "the two witnesses will prophesy, clothed in sackcloth," "the woman would be nourished in the wilderness," and "the beast would be given authority."

Now keep in mind that the following was written at the end of the first century:

Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. (Rev 17:7-11)

Before Babylon, Assyria ruled the world, and before Assyria, Egypt. When the book of Revelation was written, five had fallen: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece. One was: Rome. The other had not yet come: Papal Rome. And when he came, he would remain a little while: Three and one half years or forty-two months or twelve hundred and sixty days.



That's seven world governments that have terrorized history. The beast himself is Satan (Rev. 12:3, 9), who is also an eighth and is one of the seven. He has spent the bulk of history waging war against God's people with Pagan world government (Rev. 12:17-13:10). He stood behind the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4-23) and the king of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:2-19), who sold their souls to the devil for a shot at being the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4; Mat. 4:8-9). He tried it with the original Babel, and he is up to his same old dirty tricks today. Layers upon layers of wickedness!

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (Eph 6:11-13)

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. (Eph 3:8-13)

God Rules, Through Men

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:16)

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. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 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; 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. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. (Rom 13:1-7)

It's interesting to note that this was written to the church in Rome, the capital city of Caesar's empire. Did Caesar praise those who did what is good and bring wrath on



those who practiced evil? In many cases it was just the opposite. The church in Rome, nonetheless, was in a unique position to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and the authorities, even to those of Caesar's household (Phil. 4:22).

Do you want to be a great minister for God? Well civil government is an area that has been sorely neglected by God's people, and we are now paying a terrible price for that neglect. There are none more fit to serve as civil leaders than Christians who meet the qualifications for church leadership. In fact, in early America, people of faith often served as leaders in their communities and in government. We have allowed the wicked to take over, to a large degree, and it's time to take it back!

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matt 20:25-28)

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? (1 Cor 6:1-6)

Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You... teach [the people] the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders... (Ex 18:13-23)

And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel... Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel... The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day -- in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods -- so they are doing to you also. Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."



So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who had asked of him a king. He said, "This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants. He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day." (1 Sam 8:1-18)

All kings rule by the consent of the people. People reject God as their King so that they can get leaders with whom they can negotiate. They set up an unwritten deal: You supply the bread and circuses and the welfare subsidies, and we won't rebel, we'll keep voting for you. It's called democracy - the people of the world committing adultery with the kings of the world.

We've already noted that we should pay taxes to government ministers, but notice that Samuel's warning to the people included the king taking a tenth from them, which would make them his servants. It's one thing to give a tenth to God, but giving a tenth to mere man is too much. And paying one fifth, or 20%, is equated with slavery (Gen 47:23-25).

But how is anyone going to know these things if we don't tell them? How will leaders rule God's way if we don't train them? As long as this world exists, there will be a struggle between good and evil. The dragon wants to rule the world with terror. God wants us to lead a tranquil and quiet life. The battleground is the soul of each nation, which consists of individuals, families, communities, and churches. Satan craftily manipulates the masses with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.

The church is to disciple the nations, teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. We are not to be religious police or nitpicking busybodies, trying to run everybody's life. We are to enlighten individuals so they can govern their own lives. We are not to raise people's kids for them with a bunch of socialist programs. We are to empower dads and moms to be good parents and build strong families. We are not to take up the sword and bring vengeance upon those who practice evil. We are to equip leaders to be wise rulers, administering Biblical justice.

As individuals, we need to be willing to sacrifice our lives for our family. As husbands and wives, we need to be willing to sacrifice our families for our country. As citizens,



we need to be willing to sacrifice everything for our God. We have an election every day to decide who will run our life, Satan or Jesus. Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we vote Jesus for King.

Righteousness, Self-Control and the Judgment to Come

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. (2 Cor 10:3-6)

You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The preaching started in Jerusalem, then they went to the surrounding region, and then even to the remotest part of the earth. Are you ready to be a Christian activist?

- ◆ Revolutionary: an advocate or adherent of revolutionary doctrines.
- ◆ Activism: a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue - activist.
- ◆ Victor: one that defeats an enemy or opponent - WINNER.

Throughout history God has sent His ambassadors to try and reconcile the world to Himself. The terms of reconciliation that God offers is: Repent, For the Judgment of God Is At Hand! The response of wicked rulers - throughout history and in the world today - is to kill the messenger. The response of righteous rulers is to repent and seek God's will.

The Old Testament tells how God's messengers warned Jews and Gentiles, rulers and renegades, to turn from their wicked ways. They destroyed speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God. Some nations listened some times, but many others perished.

Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word... At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God." (1 Kings 18:21-39)

The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (Matt 12:41)

By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Heb 11:7)

God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter. (2 Peter 2:5-6)

For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod, so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. (Matt 14:3-11)

Herod wasn't a Jew, so what law was he breaking? God's law, which defines right and wrong for all people for all time. Why was it that although Herod wanted to put John to death, he feared the crowd? Because even though he was a tyrant, he was also a politician. He knew that he ruled at the consent of the people. You can manipulate the masses, but you can't manipulate God.

God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter. Check out this example God recorded for rulers who won't humble themselves before God:

On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied. (Acts 12:21-24)



The New Testament tells how God's messengers warned Jews and Gentiles, rulers and renegades, to turn from their wicked ways. They destroyed speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God. Paul found himself on trial before many a ruler. In each case he made the most of the opportunity and he preached.

When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense... But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked..." But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you." (Acts 24:10, 14-15, 25)

Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and proceeded to make his defense... "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad." But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." And Paul said, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains." (Acts 26:1, 22-29)

Except for these chains! When is the best time to tell rulers that they need to obey God's law? When you have the civil freedom to do so, or when you have to be arrested and put on trial for preaching? Are they always going to listen? Not usually. Does this excuse you from your obligation to do so, even at the cost of your life? Absolutely not!

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. (Eph 3:8-13)



Conclusion

God has given mankind stewardship over the earth. In His Word, God tells us everything pertaining to life and godliness. He has given mankind specific instructions for managing what He has entrusted to us. Who then is the faithful and sensible steward who will carry out his Master's will? Will the wicked rule the earth God's way? The righteous need to be faithful stewards and rule the earth - God's way!

We need to co-operate with God, training His army to be effective in every area of life. We are the ones who have been entrusted with administering His authority. We need to train-up and support godly leaders. We need to make sure we are out in our communities influencing everyone we can and taking a stand for righteousness. If we don't, who will? We also need to be activists and put pressure on elected representatives to pass righteous laws and repeal unrighteous ones. We must not alienate ourselves from the world. We must light the world.

Revolutionaries willingly and joyfully sacrifice everything, knowing that we are guaranteed a resurrection. We zealously impact society, strengthening our communities and world with truth and justice. We salt the earth, bringing the flavor of Christ into every area of life. We stay informed and involved in contemporary issues, utilizing resources like JesusForKing.com to maximize our effectiveness.

Many Christians are afraid of being labeled fanatics, but fanatics are exactly what we need to be! If our cause isn't worth being fanatical about and persecuted for, what is it worth? We have an example to follow that was left by innumerable fanatics. From Elijah to John the Baptist to Jesus and Paul, we see that God's work is not done in a corner. Quit playing churchy-churchy! Be a revolution!

But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and departed. They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, Who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have withheld good from you. For wicked men are found among My people, they watch like fowlers lying in wait; they set a trap, they catch men. Like a cage full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and rich. They are fat, they are sleek, they also excel in deeds of wickedness; they do not plead the cause, the cause of the orphan, that they may prosper; and they do not defend the rights of the poor. "Shall I not punish these people?" declares the LORD, "On a nation such as this Shall I not avenge Myself?" An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it? (Jer 5:23-31)

At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another

moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. So now then, speak to the men of Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem saying, "Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds.'" (Jer 18:7-11)

