



MEMBERS' BIBLE STUDY

CAPITOL QUESTIONS



God's Answers to Life's Most Important Questions

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Do Government Leaders Need God?

Does the Bible say anything specific about the type of relationship which leaders in government ought to have with God? Yes, it does – a lot!



As a matter of fact, most of the Bible is taken up describing the lives of leaders (good leaders, bad leaders, godly leaders and ungodly leaders) and telling us how their lives turned out so that we can draw some personal conclusions for our own lives.

For example, a quick study of the lives of Biblical kings shows that godly kings reigned for an average of 33 years while ungodly kings stayed in office for only about 13 years!

And why might this be so? One clue may be found in the scriptures on the right which declare that God is the one who “sets up” (Hebrew: “appoints” and “establishes”) leaders, but also “removes” them when He is not pleased with them.

A famous example of this principle is King Saul, a compromising and self-willed ruler whom God removed and replaced with King David telling him during his exit interview:

“Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.” (I Samuel 15:23)

The principle involved here is that all civil leaders, whether they know God or not, are considered to be “God's Ministers” and serve at His pleasure. (Romans 13:6) This is both an amazing privilege and a sacred responsibility. (continued on back)

“ *Government service, according to the Bible, is a privilege given by God which can also be revoked by God.* ”

Scriptures OF THE WEEK



“The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he will.”

“And he changes the times and the seasons: he removes kings, and sets up kings; he gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who know understanding”

Daniel 4:25 and 2:21



Do Government Leaders Need God? (Cont.)

After informing us that leaders are installed and/or removed by God, Daniel 2:21 adds a helpful piece of information – that God “gives wisdom unto the wise.”



God will not call us to an important job and then leave us to sink or swim without the wisdom which we need in order to succeed.

Just before Solomon was called to serve as the King of Israel, God appeared to him and said “Ask what I shall give thee” (I Kings 3:5).

Given a chance to ask God for anything he wanted, Solomon made an amazing decision – he asked God to give him “an understanding heart to judge thy people” (verse 9) or, as the NIV reads, “a discerning heart to govern your people.”

Solomon so respected the greatness of his God-given privilege that he desired above all things, not power or wealth or prestige, but the ability to fulfill his responsibilities well and to make wise and godly decisions.

The wisest thing that any leader can do is to seek God's will and guidance in all that he or she says and does.



Greetings!

I am Pastor Dale Walker – Chaplain at New Yorker’s Family Research Foundation. One of my jobs is to provide spiritual support, Biblical counsel, and a pastoral presence to members of the NYS Legislature to strengthen them in meeting their important responsibilities. I have served as a Chaplain for Hudson Valley Community College, the Albany Patroons basketball team, and the Albany County Jail and am currently Director of Programs at the Capital City Rescue Mission. I have found that people from all walks of life can benefit from a personal relationship with God and a knowledge of the Bible.

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