

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. The book of Proverbs is written to give wisdom to future Rulers.**
- B. How do these principles apply today?**
 - 1. Under the New Covenant we are not to expect a theocracy.**
 - 2. Rulers are still accountable to God.**
 - 3. Our form of government allows us to participate in choosing our leaders and making our laws. Act (vote) wisely.**
 - 4. These principles apply to all who are in authority: Church, Family, Business**

II. Good leaders reflect God’s righteous character. Character counts.

- A. They are righteous. 16:12 Ps. 72:1 Deut. 17:15-20 Isa. 32:1 *It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established on righteousness.*
 - 1. They are not greedy. 18:16 29:4 Am. 5:12 Deut. 17:16-17. *The king gives stability to the land by justice, but he who takes bribes overthrows it.***
 - 2. They are not enslaved to substance abuse or lust. 31:3-5 29:3 Dt. 17:17a I Ki. 11 *Do not give your strength to women or your ways to that which destroys kings. It is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to desire strong drink, lest they drink and forget what is decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.***
 - 3. They have personal integrity. 17:7 20:28 *Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool; much less are lying lips to a prince... Loyalty and truth preserve the king and he upholds his throne by righteousness.***
 - 4. They are compassionate. 20:28****
- B. They fear God. 1:7 Deut. 17:18-20 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*
 - 1. They realize that God sovereignly appoints and brings down rulers and that they govern under God’s authority. 21:1 Da. 2:21,37 Ro. 13:1 Mt. 22:21 *The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD. He turns it wherever He wishes.***
 - 2. They do not set themselves up as Saviors, but look to God for security and victory. 21:31 Ps. 20:7 I Sam. 8:5f Da. 4:29-30 Gen. 11:4 *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the LORD.***
 - 3. They realize that they are but channels of God’s blessings to the people. 21:1**
 - 4. They have the attitude of a servant. Mt. 20:26-28**
 - 5. They don’t fear men. 29:25****
- C. They seek wisdom from God’s Word. 8:15-16 *By me kings reign and rulers decree justice. By me princes rules and nobles. All who judge rightly.*
 - 1. They are knowledgeable of God’s law. Deut. 17:18**
 - 2. They seek to make decisions according to God’s will. 16:10 *A divine decision is in the lips of the kings. His mouth should not err in judgement*****
- D. They are qualified to rule. 19:10 30:20-21 *The earth quakes under a slave when he becomes king.***
- E. Application to different spheres. I Tim. 3:1-7**

III. Good leaders reflect God's just rule.

- A. The basis of their laws is from God's revealed Word. 29:18 *Where there is no vision the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.***
- 1. God's standards apply to all rulers in all nations! Rom. 13:1-4 I Pet. 2:14**
 - 2. All law is morality. The question is whose morality (religion) will be live by.**
 - 3. Without revealed moral absolutes the nation plunges into anarchy. Judges 21:25**
 - 4. True government is the rule of God through the rule of (His) law, as opposed to the arbitrary rule of man. 28:4 14:12 *Those who forsake the law praise the wicked.. There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.***
 - 5. Rulers are also under law.**
 - 6. Application in other spheres.**
 - a. Without spiritual preaching of the infallible Word, the church perishes.**
 - b. Without biblical principles, the home perishes.**
- B. They enact justice. 21:15,3 8:15-16 Ps. 72:2 101:8 I Kings 10:9 *The execution of justice is joy for the righteous, but terror for the workers of iniquity... To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD rather than sacrifice***
- 1. Rulers act on God's behalf. Rom. 13:4. *A minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil***
 - 2. The wicked are to be severely punished. 20:8,26 21:15 I Pet. 2:14 *A king who sits on the throne of justice disperses wickedness with his eyes. A wise king winnows the wicked and drives the threshing wheel over them.***
 - 3. They do not sell influence to the rich and powerful. 29:4,25 17:23 Amos 5:12 *The wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom to pervert the ways of justice.***
 - 4. The rich and the poor receive equal justice under the law. 29:14 Ex. 23:3 *If a king judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.***
 - 5. They do not side with the wicked against the righteous. 17:15,26 18:5 24:24-25 28:4 *He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous. Both of them are an abomination to the LORD....It is also not good to fine the righteous, nor to strike the noble for their uprightness... To show partiality to the wicked is not good, nor to thrust aside the righteous in judgment.... He who says to the wicked "You are righteous", Peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him...***
 - 6. They maintain just weights and measures. 16:11 Dt. 25:13**
 - 7. Application in other spheres: Discipline in the church and at home.**
- C. They protect the rights and freedoms of the righteous.**
- 1. Property rights are respected. 22:28 23:10-11 Deut. 19:14 *Do not move the ancient boundary or go into the fields of the fatherless, for their Redeemer is strong. He will plead their case against you..***
 - 2. Good citizens are honored. 22:29 14:35 16:13 I Pet. 2:14 *Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings... . The king's favor is toward a servant who acts wisely, but his anger is toward him who acts shamefully...***
- D. They show compassion to the helpless. Ps. 72:4,12-14**
- 1. Those who cannot protect themselves. 31:8-9 *Open your mouth for the dumb, for the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth. Judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.***
 - 2. They protect the exploited. 22:22-23 14:31 *Do not rob the poor because he is poor or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD will plead their case & take the life of those who rob them.***

3. **They help the poor.** 29:7 21:13 Dan. 4:27 *The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor. The wicked does not understand such a concern... Therefore O King... break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.*
4. **Application in other spheres.** I Tim. 5:8 Js. 1:27

E. They make well informed decisions. 25:2 18:15,17,13 I Kings 3 *The glory of kings is to search out a matter.... The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge...*

F. They choose wise and righteous advisors. 16:13 25:4-5 22:11 13:17 Ps. 101:6-7 *Righteous lips are the delight of kings & he who speaks right is loved... Take away the dross from the silver and there comes away a vessel for the smith. Take away the wicked from before the king and his throne will be established in righteousness....*

1. **A king who is surrounded by corrupt advisors will be led astray.** 29:12,5 II Chr. 10:1f I Kn. 22:1f *If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, All his ministers become wicked...A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps.*
2. **Good counsel makes the nation prosper in righteousness.** 12:15 11:14 15:22 20:18 24:5-6 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel... Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory ... Without consultation plans fail, but with many counselors there is victory... By wise guidance you will wage war...*
3. **Applications to other spheres.**

IV. Leaders have an impact on the people. 14:34 *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

A. Good leaders are channels of blessing from God. 21:1 Ps. 72:3-7, 16-19

1. **God's intent is that rulers do us good.** 20:8,16 Rom. 13:4
2. **Their righteousness spreads.**
3. **The people have joy and prosperity.** 29:2a *When the righteous increase the people rejoice.*
4. **The nation enjoys security.** 28:2b,16 29:4,14 25:5 *A king gives stability to the land by justice.*

B. Corrupt leaders are a curse. 29:2b,4,8 *When a wicked man rules, people groan*

1. **Wicked rulers exploit and oppress their own people.** 28:15,28,12 Ecc. 8:9 *Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people... When the wicked rise, men hide themselves.*
2. **Wicked leaders result in the spread of evil.** 29:16 *When the wicked increase, transgression increases.*
3. **We often get the rulers we deserve.** 28:2a Hos. 7:7 8:4 Jer. 5:31 *By the transgression of the land many are its princes.*

V. Citizens have duties to their leaders. Mark 12:17

A. Respect and obey them. Ro. 13:1-7 I Pet. 2:13-17

1. **Fear rulers.** 24:21 20:2 19:12 16:14 23:1-3 I Kings 2:25,29-34,46 *My son, fear the LORD and the king... The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion. He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life*
2. **Obey their laws.**
 - a. Even if you don't understand or agree with them. 25:3
 - b. Unless they tell you to disobey God. Acts 5:29 Dan. 6:10 3:1f
3. **You will experience the consequences of your behavior.** 22:29 Ro. 13:3

- B. Deal wisely with those in authority. 16:14 25:15 23:1-3 *The wrath of a king is as messengers of death, but a wise man will appease it.... By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks a bone..***
- C. Support them when they do right. 21:15 *The execution of justice is joy for the righteous, but it is terror to the workers of iniquity.***
- D. Don't seek honor for yourself from them. 25:6-7 18:12 Luke 14:8-11 *Do not claim honor in the presence of the king and do not stand in the place of great men; For it is better that it be said to you "come up here" than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince.***
- E. Pray for them. Ps. 72:15 Jer. 29:7 I Tim. 2:1-4 *Let them pray for him continually...***

VI. Concluding Applications: Jesus Christ is the Ideal King! Isa. 9:7 11:1-5

- A. His Character is Perfect in righteousness and wisdom.**
- B. His Administration is Righteous.**
 - 1. He is all knowing. 25:2 Rom. 11:33**
 - 2. He successfully implements His agenda because He is in complete control of all things (including earthly rulers). 21:1 Isa. 32:2 Da. 2:21 John 19:11 Ro. 9:17-18 II Sam. 23:3 Esther 6**
 - 3. He will judge with complete righteousness.**
 - 4. He will bring "Utopia". Rev. 21:1-5 Jer. 23:5 Dan. 2:44**
 - 5. He shows compassion to those who humbly turn to Him. 20:28 Luke 4:18-19**
- C. Put your hope in Him. 29:26 Jer. 17:5-8 *Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the LORD.***
- D. Submit to the King of Kings today! I Tim. 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory forever and ever, AMEN.***

Discussion questions for family worship

- 1. How do the principles of government from the Old Testament apply to governments today?**
 - A. What is the same and what is different?**
 - B. In what other spheres of leadership do these principles apply?**
- 2. What kind of character should a government leader possess?
What kind of character should church leaders possess?**
- 3. What is the correct basis for civil law? What happens when this is rejected?**
- 4. How should leaders implement justice?
How is justice implemented in the church?**
- 5. What positive impact will a good leader have on a nation?**
- 6. What negative impact will a wicked leader have on a nation?**
- 7. What is our duty to our leaders?**
- 8. How is Jesus the ideal leader?**
- 9. Evaluate the presidential candidates according to the principles in Proverbs.**